Daily Report

Latin America

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Castro Expresses Interest in Mexican Investments

PA1507191791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1807 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Guadalajara, Mexico, 15 Jul (NOTIMEX)—It was reported here today that Cuban President Fidel Castro has asked to meet with Jalisco State industrialists to analyze possible investments in Cuba.

Jorge Corvera Gibsone, coordinator of the Jalisco Council of the Chamber of Commerce, announced today that the Cuban president could meet with the Mexican businessmen on the Thursday prior to the Ibero-American summit inauguration.

Jalisco is Mexico's most developed state in industry, cattle, agriculture, and trade. Jalisco's industries, located in the Guadalajara metropolitan area, hold third place in the country in production, after the Federal District and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon State.

Corvera Gibsone said that Cuba has no other choice but to attract foreign resources to develop its economy. He said that times and circumstances change; therefore, government leaders must learn to adapt to this, and if this is President Castro's intention, then Jalisco is willing to invest in Cuba.

He added that he will attend the meeting to listen and analyze the possibility of installing an assembly plant in Cuba, to gain greater competitiveness in the signing of the upcoming Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada.

Central American Presidents' Summit Begins

Cristiani Interviewed on Summit

PA1507141491 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1306 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Interview with President Alfredo Cristiani by unidentified reporter in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Reporter] President Cristiani, Radio Cadena YSKL is pleased to talk to you. Good morning.

[Cristiani] Good morning to you and to all the listeners of Radio Cadena YSKL. It is a pleasure to talk with YSKL.

[Reporter] Mr. President, a summit begins today and you will have all the presidents of the area as guests. What welcoming message do you offer to your counterparts; what are the goals of this summit; and what do you expect to achieve for the Salvadoran people through this summit?

[Cristiani] Of course, we cordially welcome each of the Central American counterparts who visit us. We are sure that while they are on Salvadoran soil they will feel the warmth of our people and the esteem and kindness that the Salvadorans have always offered the Central American presidents. We feel this is a new opportunity for El Salvador to experience events that may affect the future of our entire region.

We believe considerable progress has been made in follow-up work concerning the agreements in principle adopted at previous summits; and the work conducted at the ministerial level has been strenuous. The Salvadorans are aware of the numerous meetings that have been held in El Salvador by all the groups. We hope the summit will ratify the agreements so that they can be implemented, thus enabling us to advance toward the integration of Central America and Panama.

We believe that.... [changes thought] The summit is extremely important for us because it will be held at what we consider to be a very important time in the peace process. I also think it is important for the Guatemalan people because they have also begun a peace process. These critical topics are always discussed at the meetings. We expect to receive once more the support of the Central American presidents for the peace efforts in the region.

We have always said that there will be no peace in Central American as long as a conflict prevails in a country. This is what prompts the presidents to support our peace process. We also hope that the presence of the Central American leaders and the presence of two important South American leaders will represent a civic festivity for the Salvadoran people. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez will visit us again on Tuesday afternoon, 16 July, and it will be the first time in history that a Chilean president—now President Patricio Aylwin—will visit Salvadoran soil. He will visit us enroute to the Guadalajara Summit and he will bring important messages of rapproachement between Chile and Central America.

[Reporter] President Cristiani, thank you for talking with Radio Cadena YSKL this morning, and for bringing such an important message to all the Salvadorans concerning the presidential summit we will have on 15-17 July.

[Cristiani] Quite the contrary, it has been my pleasure. I again send greetings to all the Salvadorans, to YSKL's listeners, and to YSKL itself. I sincerely congratulate it for the work it conducts in our country.

Calderon, Endara Arrive

PA1507180191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1515 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The presidents of Costa Rica and Panama, Rafael Calderon Fournier and Guillermo Endara Galimany, respectively, arrived in San Salvador at 0855 this morning to attend the Central American summit meeting that will begin shortly after noon.

The two presidents arrived at the same time at Ilopango Military Airport, some 10 km from San Salvador, aboard two Salvadoran Air Force helicopters. They were received by their Salvadoran counterpart, Alfredo Cristiani.

After the national anthems of the three countries were played, the Central American presidents reviewed troops and Calderon and Endara received "the keys to the city" from San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol.

Serrano, Chamorro Comment

PA1507180691

[Editorial Report] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1605 GMT begins a series of live reports from the Ilopango Military Base and the Presidente Hotel in San Salvador on the Central American and Panamanian presidents' arrival and statements to the media.

Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano arrives at the Presidente Hotel at 1633 GMT and says that he has "always been an optimist" about the possibilities of achieving Central American integration. Asked by journalists about the Salvadoran Government's dialogue with the guerrillas, Serrano said "President Cristiani's attitude is great" and he should seek an agreement with the rebel forces "on ways to end the conflict in the country." The Guatemalan president also said that "peace is only achieved by solving the overall problem prevailing in the country." He added that he believes "now is the time to implement the Central American integration mechanisms."

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro arrived at Ilopango Military Base at 1635 and said that she is honored to accept the keys to the city because "it symbolizes the relationship" between the two countries. She added that "the unity and reconciliation which we have in Nicaragua will also be achieved in San Salvador." The president added that "she does not bring a specific proposal" to the summit, but she is "ready to endorse any program that will bring peace to Central America."

Callejas Arrives, Comments

PA1507212291 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jul 91

["Excerpt" of news conference by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified journalists at the Ilopango Air Base in San Salvador on 15 July, upon his arrival for the Central American presidential summit—recorded]

[Text] [Callejas] I obviously endorse the efforts exerted by President Alfredo Cristiani's administration.

[Journalist] Mr. President, it was reported that Guatemala and [words indistinct].

[Callejas] It is part of a proposal being presented to several governments for a time when peace is reached in the Central American region, particularly in El Salvador. We constantly pray for an internal solution among the Salvadoran people so that they may achieve peace. Afterwards, when the same phenomenon occurs in Guatemala, we will be able to talk about the establishment of limits to the levels of the Central American armies, in the countries where we have armies, and about moving available funds to other projects. What we have right now is a working document. We do not expect to get a full endorsement right now, but we will certainly present a general proposal which calls for a process that will allow the Central American people to assume the responsibility of establishing the levels of our nations' Armed Forces.

[Journalist] Can we talk about Central American integration?

[Callejas] We endorse the proposal for the creation of a primary office at the ODECA [Organization of Central American States] to analyze its scope and purposes. We believe that another organization must be founded, meaning TIRSA [expansion unknown], whose goal will be to organize the foreign relations and economy ministers in a dynamic secretariat. We do not think the ODECA should replace the Central American Parliament, but rather complement it.

[Journalist] President Callejas, your foreign minister said that Honduras is prepared for a reduction of its Armed Forces. Can you confirm this statement?

[Callejas] That is correct. We have done it. In 1990 we began a process of reducing the Armed Forces budget by 15 percent, and the economic adjustment program in recent years has changed the currency's exchange rate from two lempiras for $1 to a free exchange rate. It is now 5.30 lempiras for $1. This naturally implies an adjustment of the Honduran Army's reality, meaning a reduction of approximately 35 percent in relation to the 1989 levels.

[Journalist] Does the working document you brought, which talks about regional security, include the departure of U.S. military bases in Honduras?

[Callejas] There are no such military bases in Honduras. Soto Cano Air Base is a Honduran base where all kinds of joint exercises are carried out with the U.S. Armed Forces for various purposes. There are no U.S. bases and there is no military treaty with the United States to establish bases in our territory.

FMLN Calls For Impartiality

PA1507223191 Paris AFP in Spanish 1720 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Report by Arturo Gudino]

[Text] Perquin, El Salvador, 15 Jul (AFP)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) today asked the Central American presidents gathered in San Salvador to impartially examine the Salvadoran conflict and "not fall into the trap of issuing a unilateral declaration that will only encourage the ultra rightwing.

"With regard to the Salvadoran conflict, it is important that the presidents not be biased. They must support the negotiations process" which the FMLN and Alfredo Cristiani's government have been carrying out since April 1990, said Jorge Melendez, one of the leading guerrilla commanders.

The presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, as well as those of Venezuela and Chile, are beginning a summit today, 15 July, the main topic of which will be regional economic integration. However, the presidents will be unable to overlook the civil war that has rocked El Salvador for the past 11 years, causing 75,000 deaths.

Melendez, better known as Commander Jonas, made statements to AFP in Perquin, 208 km northeast of San Salvador, in Morazan Department, one of the insurgency's leading bastions.

Jonas, 37, and founder of the Morazan guerrilla front, said that the presidents must take into consideration that in El Salvador "there is a military deadlock" between the guerrillas and the Army. Outlining the theory of the "military deadlock," Jonas said that although the guerrillas cannot militarily defeat the Army, the Army cannot defeat the rebels either.

Jonas and his lieutenants —Commanders Gustavo Anaya, Fidel Sanchez, and Mariana—greeted the AFP correspondents in the drawing room of a house in Perquin that was soberly decorated with a blue and white Salvadoran flag and a red FMLN flag. Outside the house were his young bodyguards, among them two pretty young women in charge of communications, who bore submachineguns and AK-47 and M-16 assault rifles.

Jonas based his military deadlock theory on the presence of guerrillas throughout almost the entire country and on the "control areas" that the FMLN still holds in several northern and eastern departments.

For the guerrillas, an example of this is northern Morazan, where approximately 40,000 peasants live alongside several hundred guerrillas, whose uniforms, communications apparatus, and weapons can be distinguished from the Army's only by their insignias.

Jonas said that if the presidents condemn the FMLN, "they would only be encouraging the Salvadoran ultra rightwing, which still has hopes of a military victory."

Jonas then explained that "this would bog down the negotiations and would delay the solution to the conflict." Jonas noted that 11 years ago he left his art studies to wage war.

As for the negotiations process, which has advanced very little on the thorny issues of the reorganization of the Armed Forces and the cease-fire, Jonas said that "the dialogue is not bogged down; what happens is that we have begun to discuss the core of the Salvadoran problem, which makes it difficult to advance."

The guerrilla chief of Morazan said that one of the possibilities for advancing more rapidly would be that to "discuss the integration of a single army, merging the Armed Forces and the rebel army into a single corps."

"If they insist that the existence of the Armed Forces is not negotiable, then we will answer that neither is the National Army for Democracy (END)," as the rebel forces are now called.

"The solution then would be the creation of a new army, with a new doctrine, that would make disappear [words indistinct] did not give more details about the concept of the new army, but he did clarify that the final objective is the gradual disappearance of the Armed Forces. [no closing quotation marks as received]

On the other hand, Jonas also said that President Alfredo Cristiani "is prey to many contradictions," moving among the rightist sectors who "want a peace agreement, as well as the gangsters and death squad promoters there are within his own party," the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena).

Referring to the flareup in death squad operations, Commander Jonas said that "I think that even President Cristiani is a victim of this fear."

Presidents' Summit Inaugurated

PA1507193291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1854 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The 10th Central American Summit was inaugurated today at 1240 (1840 GMT), and the leading topics on its agenda will be peace, integration, and regional financial cooperation.

The solemn inaugural ceremony took place at the Hotel Presidente in the western part of San Salvador, where the working meetings scheduled to conclude on 17 July will also be held.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is expected to arrive on 16 July, and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin is scheduled to arrive on 17 July.

Following the Central American summit, the presidents will travel to Guadalajara, Mexico where the Ibero American Summit will be held.

Cristiani Opening Speech

PA1507204291 San Salvador Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 1854 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Opening speech by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani at the 10th Summit of Presidents of Central America and Panama, at the Presidente Hotel in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Your Excellencies Presidents of Central America and Panama, Your Excellencies First Ladies of Central America and Panama, Your Excellencies Ambassadors

and honorable heads of diplomatic missions, friends of the international community, ladies and gentlemen:

I am highly honored and pleased by the Central American presidents' presence. With personal affection, I offer them a cordial welcome to Salvadoran territory, which is part of the geography and history of our motherland. With great satisfaction and renewed hope, I welcome my colleagues and friends, their excellencies the presidents of Central America and Panama to the 10th summit of regional presidents since this process of regional rapprochement at the highest level began in 1966, in an effort to confront and resolve the diverse and complex problems Central America must face in our times.

I wish to express a special greeting to Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias, who has joined this regional political forum. I am sure that his presence will give our meetings increased vitality.

Our crisis has been the primary source of inspiration for our coordination, which we are gradually developing with increasing awareness and intensity. The Central American process, however, has already gone beyond meeting the crisis' most urgent requirements; as of the summit in Antigua, Guatemala, we entered a promising phase in which we could diversify the presidents' joint agenda.

We have established specific duties in various facets of our political, social, and economic tasks. We have come to this meeting with a desire to follow up on the fulfillment of the proposals made at our past few meetings, and to reach pertinent agreements so that our initiatives can be increasingly clear and efficient, in accordance with the historic responsibility that we have undertaken for our people with the future in mind.

Aware of the integrational problems of the past, I believe that the path we have chosen is the most suitable; we must gather specific achievements in different fields of regional interest, to arrive sooner rather than later at the structures that are necessary to unify and lend permanence to our great common goal of building on what, in Punta Arenas, we described as the Central America of the nationalities: strongly united with a shared future, without attempting to erase that which constitutes each of our six countries' own profile and configuration.

Our coming together has been positive. I believe the time has come to make decisions that will provide our region with political and economic structures and mechanisms that will permanently contribute to this valuable and necessary effort to integrate.

I am sure that positive decisions for our peoples will emerge from this meeting. Our pledge of representative democracy which, fortunately, is taking shape and is being perfected in our countries, obliges us to cooperate with one another to support and preserve our freedom.

The challenge of integrating for development is inherent to democracy's survival. Survival is not feasible if it is besieged by hunger, illiteracy, desperation, and violence. The ability to overcome extreme poverty and the creation of true opportunities to improve the standard of living of large sectors of our countries' populations, are undeniable requirements for peace and harmony in our societies. Thus, the only antidote against violence is development.

Since our last meeting six months ago, the Central American peace process has been promising. I have followed with satisfaction the progress of the peace process in Guatemala over the past few months. In El Salvador, although we have not yet reached a definitive peace agreement, we have gathered enough information to expect that weapons will be silent in the immediate future, and that the irreversible peace process will become relentless for the good of the people who so desire and demand it.

I am still resolved, and I still have the same devotion that I proclaimed when I took office, to be as flexible and consistent as necessary so that peace can come to our country as soon as possible.

On this occasion, I wish to pay tribute to the presidents of Central America and Panama for their decisive support of our pacification process. I would also like to express to them the Salvadoran people's eternal gratitude.

Gentlemen presidents, upon having the honor to proclaim the inauguration of this 10th summit of presidents of Central America and Panama, I wish you the greatest success in the intense efforts that lie ahead, and reiterate to our Central American brothers the Salvadoran Government and people's warmest affection and solidarity. Thank you very much. [applause]

Chamorro Gives News Conference

PA1607000191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1805 GMT 15 Jul 91

[News conference by Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, and Colonel Javier Carrion, deputy chief of staff of the Sandinist People's Army, with local and foreign reporters and moderated by Presidency Press and Information Director Danilo Lacayo at the Presidente Hotel in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Chamorro] ...the Central American presidents' summit. This is the fourth one I have attended. Other meetings have been held before. I feel very pleased. I was asked at the airport about my views regarding the whole summit. When I received the keys to the city of San Salvador, I said they meant a great deal to me because they represented the keys of unity; that is to say, the unity of all Central Americans and the unity of the Salvadoran people. I wish all Salvadorans, Guatemalans, all Central Americans, and all the other countries would have the unity we have experienced in Nicaragua since I

took office on 25 February 1990. There is nothing like unity, and unity makes strength. To me, that means many things, and I imagine it does to you too.

So, here I am in San Salvador. I imagine you are going to ask me this, so let me tell you that now that my Central American and Panamanian colleagues and I are going to meet, one of the things I wish for is to see what we can do—and if we can have a closed-door session—to foster integration in agricultural matters, because I think that is necessary in all our countries.

There are times when one of us needs rice or beans, and I feel that my country, despite the tragedy that befell us, will have a large amount of basic grains this year and the next. I want to tell you that this year, perhaps you.... [changes thought] I have a very simple way of talking, which may even stun you. Our bean harvest was the result of the work by the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. We have given land to the RN members and we continue distributing land to them, and not just to the RN but also to soldiers and many persons who are returning to Nicaragua now that we have freedom. We give them land and we help them in their harvest. The RN is to be credited for this year's big harvest.

As for all the other matters, I want to tell you we are the poorest country in the world. We took over a country in total bankruptcy. I trust in God and am confident that all the countries that have helped us, chiefly in Latin America, namely, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and... [changes thought] Perhaps later on all of us can coordinate with the United States to exchange our products within the framework of a Central American agreement, which would be a good thing. I wanted to introduce to you...[changes thought] Oh, you [not further identified] already introduced him. If you have any question...

[Reporter, interrupting] Excuse me, Mrs. Chamorro, at the summit...

[Chamorro, interrupting] I am very happy to be in San Salvador, as I said, attending the 10th Central American summit, and I hope we will obtain good results for everyone.

[Reporter] At the Costa del Sol summit, held in...

[Unidentified person, interrupting] Attention, please.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will stand to lose more than they will win? Do you think that [words indistinct] will be achieved?

[Chamorro] I think that everybody's wish to work together will allow us to reach a balance so we can obtain good results for all of us. I do not see any problem with that. Manpower, a person's work and desire to forge ahead, must not be neglected. We must not concentrate on the negative, but on the positive.

[Station announcer] Unfortunately, the person coordinating the news conference is only allowing those he knows to pose questions. Radio YSKL listeners, this is unfortunate in this news conference.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Chamorro] To answer your first question, I was lucky that these young men from—what do you call it? oh, yes, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]...

[Lacayo, interrupting] FMLN.

[Chamorro] They came to talk to me because they want to find peace here in San Salvador. I told them it was time to stop thinking too much and to turn ideas into reality. I think brothers are killing each other in El Salvador. They are now holding talks and they will attain peace soon. Let us not lose hope. Salvadorans should shake hands with each other, as we did in Nicaragua. We must be able to forgive to live in peace. It is pointless to continue the bloodshed. I totally support the peace plan for Central America.

[Moderator] Here is Cristabal Sarmiento from Panama.

[Sarmiento] Cuban President Fidel Castro is expected to attend the meeting in Guadalajara. Do you plan to seek peace [words indistinct]?

[Chamorro] Pardon me, what did you say?

[Sarmiento] My question is, since the goal of the meeting is to seek peace, do you plan to meet with Fidel Castro?

[Chamorro] I think that that meeting is very important. It is like a gift from God. Just as we had an unexpected eclipse, we are going to hold a meeting of 21 Ibero-American presidents. The purpose is to find unity among all Latin Americans. If Fidel Castro wants to talk to me or anybody else, I think that we cannot say no, since we are all human beings, especially if it serves to help the Cuban people find peace. I think it is necessary to help the Cuban people find peace. He is being left alone.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Station announcer] Because of this situation, we are going to conclude the news conference at this point. The situation has become chaotic. We are, however, going to broadcast this answer by President Chamorro.

[Chamorro, in progress] ...we reduced our army in Nicaragua, and I want to continue reducing it. A reduction does not mean we are leaving soldiers out in the streets with empty pockets. We must gradually reduce the army, given our situation. When I took office, there were 87,000 men in uniform. That figure has been reduced to 27,000. I reduced the army. I am publicly saying this before these microphones, because I think the army has to be reduced. I will not, however, tell any country to do that. This is as far as I go. I think there is no room for armies in the current world situation. The size of the armies must be reduced. As the late Costa Rican President Jose Figueres said, and as Sandino once said too:

One small army is enough to protect the citizens of a country. Ev[illegible] former socialist countries are reducing their armies. Why can't we do that here?

[Reporter] Carlos Monge of Cadena Radio [words indistinct]. The Salvadoran Government has accused some Sandinists of aiding the FMLN with weapons. If these Sandinists are outside the control of your government, doesn't this [words indistinct]?

[Chamorro] Look, everybody has a right to give an opinion. When there is freedom of the press, everyone can express himself. I have had personal talks, however, with President Cristiani, and I understand that whenever there is a problem, he will tell me and we will solve things. I am bringing Colonel Javier Carrion and Colonel Antenor Rosales here so that you can pose the question to them and get an answer. I do not want to... [changes thought] It is better to do it person to person.

[Reporter] Is there any communication between some Sandinists and the Cuban Government?

[Chamorro] What?

[Reporter] Is there any communication with the Cuban Government?

[Chamorro] No sir. Here is Javier Carrion.

[Danilo Lacayo] Chief of staff of the Sandinist People's Army.

[Carrion] [Words indistinct] the agreement of Esquipulas regarding the verification by the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America]...

[Station announcer, interrupting] There is apparently a sound defect in one of the microphones in this news conference.

[Carrion] [Passage indistinct] Also, Nicaragua has carried out verifications with respect to denouncements made by the governments of [words indistinct]. ONUCA currently has the verification, the number, the quantity of firing mechanisms of antiaircraft missiles at low altitude, and has confirmed that the charges, which were made unofficially, are groundless. Regarding the verification of ONUCA, the Salvadoran Government has submitted three charges via ONUCA and the three have been verified. It has been confirmed that the three charges did not have any grounds, and in that sense there is no indication that there is any support from the Army to the [word indistinct]. There have been, however, several cases of arrests of Nicaraguan persons and military members who have [words indistinct] weapons. In this sense, the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Army cannot be responsible for the arms traffic that is being carried out by arms traffickers in Central America [words indistinct].

[Station announcer] That was the Nicaraguan chief of staff who was making the statement, while President Chamorro is also making statements. Unfortunately, the press coordinator of Nicaragua, Danilo Lacayo, was only naming newsmen that he knows and did not permit other newsmen to ask President Chamorro questions. Here is the last question put to President Chamorro.

[Chamorro, in progress] ...I share what the church monsignor said. I think that that is what the summits are for, that is what the talks are for, that is what the meetings are for. I think that it is one thing to speak of the poverty and crises that exist in all parts of the world, but we must also find solutions.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Chamorro] I do not think that is possible. I am one of the people who, since my country was left in disgrace, in total bankruptcy, I ask everyone—when we have confidence—for short or long-term credit. I would like all the credits to be granted to my country to be at least for 40 years, as President Carlos Andres Perez did, so that we can find solutions for all of our countries.

Endara on Panama's Integration

PA1607044191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0347 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany today announced his country's integration into Central America in a gradual manner.

During a news conference, the Panamanian president said he has requested from his Central American colleagues that Panama stop being an observer of the meetings and actively participate in all of the integration efforts of the isthmus. He added that his request was accepted and "We are proceeding to integrate ourselves into the Central American countries in an gradual and complementary manner."

When asked about Panama's reasons for making this decision, Endara replied: "From a geographic standpoint, we are close to Central America and we see that our future lies with this region."

"Panama is aware that the modern world is headed toward the creation of economic blocs, and it is up to us to do so with Central America."

Endara denied the Panamanian decision is politically motivated and noted: "We are not obligated to join Central America; it is a very free decision with no conditions."

This is the third Central American summit Endara is attending as an observer; the two previous ones were held in 1990. Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said that the area presidents will issue a statement on the matter and the respective documents will be signed.

Regarding the possibilities of reactivating the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), an organization first created in 1951, Linares noted that it "has to be restructured because the current structures in the region have changed."

He indicated that ODECA has been "totally inoperative," and that Panama will join when "it deems it advisable."

Summit Document Previewed

PA1607043491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0223 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Jul (NOTIMEX)—According to the draft of the "El Salvador Declaration" to be signed by the Central American presidents, the document will include condemnation of the use of violence by the Salvadoran guerrillas.

NOTIMEX obtained access to this document, which also recognizes the Guatemalan Government's efforts on behalf of peace.

It also expresses the presidents' decision to promote the Costa Rican foreign minister's candidacy to the OAS secretary general.

It establishes the reactivation of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) as well as the implementation of a system for the renegotiation of Nicaragua's interregional debt.

In the second of the 26 points in the document, the presidents condemn "the violence, terrorism, and acts of destabilization which attack the democratic processes, along with the use of violent means to attain political power."

The paragraph that is to follow this condemnation, which has yet to be drafted, will refer to the Salvadoran guerrillas and to the support that the presidents give to their colleague and host Alfredo Cristiani, a diplomatic source told NOTIMEX. The source did not rule out a strong condemnation of the rebels by the presidents.

Regarding the controversial security proposal presented by Honduran President Rafael Callejas, the draft of the final document points out this initiative's "compatibility" with "the commitments established in the Esquipulas agreements on the topic."

In this regard, the presidents decided to begin a process of consultations among the governments and the Security Commission for the possible adoption of the security treaty presented by Callejas "as a binding international instrument in the area of regional security."

The governments of the region will also begin negotiations with the members of the North American Free Trade Association (Canada, the United States, and Mexico) to expand the Central American products' access to its markets.

The importance of the first Ibero-American summit that will be held in the Mexican city of Guadalajara, in western Jalisco State, on 18 July, will also be highlighted in the declaration.

The document will also urge the EEC to approve a system of generalized preferences.

Cuba

Castro Presents Flag to Pan-Am Games Delegation

FL1507233991 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Report by Diego Mendez during "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] [Arredondo] This afternoon at the Council of State, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro presented the flag to the delegation that will represent Cuba at the 11th Pan-American Games. Diego Mendez has more information. Diego?

[Mendez] Thank you Cesar [Arredondo, host of "Exclusivo" program], greetings to Radio Rebelde's "Exclusivo," to Cuba, and our America. Indeed, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has presented the flag to the Cuban delegation which will participate in the 11th Pan-American Games from 2 to 18 August. During a solemn ceremony held on the steps of the Palace of the Revolution, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee received the national flag from Aurelia Pinzon, glory of Cuban sports. He then placed it in the hands of Orestes Qindelan, who will be the flag bearer at the sports event. Elvis Gregory, world champion in men's fencing, read the pledge of the 632 athletes, who compose the Cuban delegation.

Later, Fidel spoke to the members of the Cuban delegation and urged them to be an example of the courage and valor of our people. He also stressed that we should fight to get the medal of hospitality and camaraderie with all our brothers of America. Fidel placed special emphasis on this. I believe it will be another obvious success for our people, who have always been characterized by these traits and who will once again display the friendship and fellowship that unites them with all the peoples of America. It was a lovely ceremony. After addressing the athletes, Fidel chatted with them. Everything ended with happiness and a great deal of praise for these athletes who will have the great responsibility of defending and honorably representing the flag that was handed to them today.

Addresses Delegation

FL1607010891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Report on ceremony where President Fidel Castro presents flag to delegation representing Cuba at the Pan-American Games during ceremony held at Havana's Palace of the Revolution on 15 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Castro] For the first time, the people will not have to follow sports events over radio or television alone. They will now be able to attend many of them. Naturally, since there is not enough room for everyone in the stadiums where the competitions are going to be held, many will have to watch them over television and listen to them on the radio, but from here. I believe there will be more transmissions than ever, more hours of television and radio transmissions than ever. In addition, our press will be there.

As I had said before, our country had wanted for a long time to not only host an event such as this one, but our country had hoped to have a velodrome. We have waited for over 30 years to acquire a velodrome. We wanted an Olympic stadium. We have waited for over 30 years to get one. We had wished to have a pool complex. We have waited for it for over 30 years. Finally, we have them. They are excellent installations. According to what some visitors have told us, they could be used for the Olympic Games.

I have the privilege of seeing the baseball team here in front of me. We have seen them playing here and there [United States] in these past few days. I also expect each of you, each male and female athlete, to achieve a brilliant performance, being aware that you are defending the prestige of our sports and the honor of our fatherland. Even more, I say that during these difficult times, you will be an example of the courage and valor of our people. You will be the example and will show that we are truly a hard-working and invincible country.

I am going to end here so I can keep my word. Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win! [crowd joins in slogan] [applause]

TANA Letter to Castro, Ibero-American Summit

FL1607020291 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] A letter of solidarity with Cuba will be sent to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and the Ibero-American summit by the international presidency of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America [TANA].

The document was prepared on the occasion of the upcoming meeting in Mexico of 23 chiefs of state or government. It contains at the beginning a maxim of Benito Juarez: The respect of someone else's rights is peace. TANA favors an Ibero-American summit in which justice prevails and which urges the Washington government presided over by George Bush to put an end to its unjustified hostility toward Cuba.

[Begin recording of Guillermo Torriello Garrido, president of TANA, identified by caption] We have the hope that, in honor of the responsibility they have toward their people, they will defend the preponderance of international law over force and will support the empire of the law over barbarian law. Based on such irrevocable principles, in an act of unyielding solidarity with the Cuban people and government, they shall include in the final document a call for the U.S. Government to cease its interference, threats, and attacks on Cuba. [end recording]

Belize

Government Announces $2 Million Loan to Barbados

FL1307145291 Bridgetown CANA in English 2305 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 12, CANA—Belize said Friday it was lending Barbados U.S. 2 million dollars to help the island out of its current financial difficulties. Minister of State for Finance Ralph Fonseca, in an interview with the Broadcasting Corporation of Belize, said the money was being made available as a short-term loan to "assist Barbados with their present problems." Fonseca gave no details.

At the July 1-4 Caribbean Community (Caricom) summit in St. Kitts-Nevis, Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford discussed with his colleagues the island's economic difficulties, particularly the "pressure on our foreign reserves." He noted that Barbados had some EC 150 million dollars in funds tied up in the now suspended Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), which "if they were available.... now the present pressure on our foreign reserves would not loom as large."

Fonseca said an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team had been in Belize for the past three weeks studying the country's economic performance and had reported it was "very happy." The minister said Belize still had to take measures to diversify its agricultural production to rely less on bananas, citrus, and sugar.

Fonseca said that Belize had asked the IMF for professional help to more closely monitor public spending, in an attempt to curb inflation and stop the economy from overheating.

El Salvador

Rebel Commentary Welcomes Summit Presidents

PA1607033891 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0003 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Station commentary: "Before the Presidents, a White Collar; in the Background, Necks in the Noose]

[Text] While Salvadoran President Cristiani dons his impeccable white collar and educated manner and delivers a sugarcoated speech before the visiting presidents; Colonel Leon Linares, one of the assassins of the Jesuit priests, is conducting an operation from his headquarters in Morazan against the civilian population in Cacaopera, where innocent peasants are tied by the neck like animals, hooded and placed in lye, are struck on their testicles, and are subjected to the new torture techniques introduced by Col. Leon Linares.

While Cristiani delivers sugarcoated speeches, aircraft and artillery indiscriminately fire their bombs and cannons on peasant populations, causing death and destruction, as they have done in San Francisco Javier, Usulutan Department. While in the cities pressures and threats are applied against the media and Cristiani exhibits an invented scenario, in the background there are the brutal scenes of the headless body of community leader Martin Ayala and his wife, who was tortured to the verge of death. This is a crime that threatens to go unpunished, despite the fact that it has the mark of the government Armed Forces.

The bloody torturers of Pinochet or of Perez Jimenez are but a pale image compared to the bestiality of the Army. Demilitarization is not only sufficiently justified, but at this moment it is the key to achieving peace. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] welcomes the Central American presidents and chiefs of state of Chile and Venezuela to El Salvador, because we believe that their presence can be constructive in promoting the process of democratization in El Salvador. They will also learn our viewpoints and our will for peace at the same time that we learn of their interest in solving the conflict. These presidents know that the solution lies in recognizing the existence of a dual power, popular and democratic.

Also, we are fully identified with the Bolivarian thesis of making Latin America a country integrated in its common development and in the democratic values that make the people the master of their own destiny. A continent where we respect human rights, where the judicial system will function, where the vote of the majority is respected, and where wealth fulfills its social function, that will be a continent where the weapons will be silent. The FMLN, aware of this responsibility as a force that can transform our society, will maintain its effort to contribute its part in achieving that common dream of the sons of Simon Bolivar.

TASS Reporters Denied Entry to El Salvador

PA1507202391 Paris AFP in Spanish 1756 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Managua, 15 Jul (AFP)—The Salvadoran Government has expelled TASS correspondent Yuri Dimitriev, although the Salvadoran Embassy in Nicaragua gave him a visa so he could cover the Central American presidents' summit to begin in San Salvador today, the correspondent reported in Managua.

In addition, Pedro Rioseco, PRENSA LATINA director in Nicaragua, reported that he had to cancel his trip to El Salvador to cover the meeting because the Salvadoran immigration service canceled his visa at the last possible moment. The Cuban journalist added that the Salvadoran Embassy in Managua "is at a loss to explain what happened."

Dimitriev, who resides in Managua, said that, although he had a valid visa, he was held for 12 hours at San

Salvador International Airport by the immigration authorities Saturday night, and then deported.

"I spent the entire time sitting or walking, enduring the immigration policemen's unfriendly faces," Dimitriev said. He reported the decision as "an attack against freedom of expression."

Furthermore, Rioseco was advised today that the visa extended to him by the Salvadoran Embassy in Managua had been declared null and void. "The government of Alfredo Cristiani has announced that journalists can come and go freely during the meeting. In addition, I have covered all the Central American summit meetings, including the one held at Tesoro Beach, El Salvador," Rioseco said.

Rightist Group Threatens To Wage 'Bloody War'

PA1607021591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0039 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—An extreme rightist clandestine organization today threatened to unleash "a real and bloody war" in El Salvador if agreements are signed between the government and the leftist guerrillas. It also urged the people "not to accept any impositions" from organizations such as the United Nations.

In a communique issued in San Salvador today, the Salvadoran Anticommunist Front [Frente Anticomunista Salvadoreno] warned the government that "the Salvadorans will never accept impositions from ONUSAL [UN Observer Group in El Salvador], the CIA, and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], even if agreements are signed abroad."

The ONUSAL will be deployed on 26 July and its first task will be to verify the human rights agreements signed by the government and the FMLN in San Jose, Costa Rica in July 1990.

This same anticommunist front issued death threats a few weeks ago against Salvadorans who help or work with ONUSAL and other international organizations.

ONUSAL includes 70 observers, 28 policemen, and 15 military liaison officers of various nationalities.

"If there is an attempt to impose the will of internationalists, a real and bloody war will be unleashed," the communique added.

The organization reminded the Army that "the great majority of Salvadorans are with you and we will support the decisions that must be made to eradicate from the institution the individuals who try to sell our sovereignty."

It added that "the myth of U.S. aid is being manipulated to soften up the positions of the real patriots" and that the "elimination" of the Jesuits was to "balance the low intensity conflict."

Six Jesuits—five Spaniards and one Salvadoran—were murdered along with two maids on 16 November 1989, when a curfew was in force in the country to counteract one of the biggest FMLN offensives in 11 years of war.

So far, eight military personnel, including a colonel, will be put on trial, accused of having participated in the crime, while three others will be prosecuted for concealing evidence.

"We are convinced that peace will come, when we expel from our territory the communists and the Machiavellian organizations that help them to shackle developing countries," the communique stated.

It added that Nicaragua "was plunged into the slime of lies and betrayal by the clergy, mediators, and false revolutionaries to subjugate the sister Nicaraguan people."

It also issued a call to the population to remain "alert to the announcement to join our front to defeat the enemies of El Salvador" and concluded that 1991 will be "the year of the truth."

Report on Unilateral Suspension, Latest Talks

PA1407002691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Report by Justo Sierra]

[Text] We have an important report for Radio Farabundo Marti listeners. The General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], through Commander Leonel Gonzalez on 11 July ordered the unilateral suspension of offensive operations 15-17 July. This unilateral suspension of offensive operations by the National Army for Democracy will be limited to the capital, San Salvador. It is a political gesture of goodwill in view of the 10th summit of Central American presidents that begins in San Salvador on 15 July.

We can also report that the round of negotiations in Mexico ended on 11 July with important progress made on the issues that were addressed. Dr. Alvaro De Soto, the UN mediator in the talks, indicated that the meeting ended without public agreements, but with important progress made on the topics of the Armed Forces, public political activity by the FMLN during a cease-fire, and economic and social issues.

Both Commander Leonel Gonzalez and Salvador Samayoa, a member of the FMLN's political-diplomatic commission, announced there was important progress and a convergence of views on the topic of the Armed Forces, mainly on the disbanding of the repressive forces of the National Guard and the Treasury Police.

Dr. Alvaro De Soto reported that there were no setbacks and there was progress. As is his custom, he did not publicly announce the date and site of the next round of negotiations between the FMLN and the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] regime.

We repeat: The FMLN has ordered an unilateral truce for San Salvador 15-17 July. The negotiations in Mexico ended on 11 July with important progress being made on the issue of the Armed Forces.

Official Communique Views Destabilization Plot

PA1207174891 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Jul 91 p 33

[Text] In a communique issued on 10 July, the government said it will act energetically, immediately, and in accordance with the law on any report of illegal land occupations.

The communique was read during a news conference at the Presidency Palace, in light of recent invasions of private property, which were denounced as part of a terrorist destabilization strategy against the government. The communique highlights the following:

1. The government will enforce the law with full respect for the Constitution in each case. It will apply the law against those agitators who promote these illegal and violent actions.

2. These acts of violence, along with others that are beginning to surface, are part of a destabilization strategy by which terrorist groups are trying to create a confrontation between the peasants and the country's security forces.

3. Certain peasant organizations, such as those that make up the Democratic Peasant Alliance, have vowed not to support or participate in any illegal situations and to evacuate peacefully those places that were illegally occupied.

4. In light of ongoing negotiations by the owners of certain properties, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is requesting that these owners file a formal claim as soon as possible, to determine if they wish to sell the property or not.

Comparison of END Military Communique No. 1

PA1107185991

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 11 July broadcasts "Communique No. 1" issued by the High Command of the National Army for Democracy, END, in El Salvador on 9 July. The (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti report has been compared to the (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos Spanish version published in the 11 July Latin America DAILY REPORT, beginning on page 15, revealing the following variations:

Page 16, column one, paragraph four, sentence one reads: ...We reaffirm our subordination to the orders... (supplying indistinct word);

Page 16, column one, paragraph five, sentence two reads: ...Libertad, San Miguel, Cuscatlan, and the capital city. We have also... (supplying missing place name and omitting sentence);

Same paragraph, last sentence, to antepenultimate graf, only sentence reads: our weapons, then they should win the war. [new graf]

Commander Jesus Rojas and Camilo Turcios, we will end... (supplying indistinct words).

Comparison of END Military Communique No. 2

PA1107215791

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 11 July broadcasts "Communique No. 2" issued by the High Command of the National Army for Democracy, END, in El Salvador on 10 July. The (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti report has been compared to the (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos Spanish version published in the 11 July Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 16, revealing the following variations:

Columne two, paragraph one, last sentence reads: ...them one lieutenant, one sergeant, and one radio operator. [new graf]

4. In... (clearing queried words);

Column two, third paragraph, from sentence two, make read ...other war materiel. [new graf]

6. END columns attacked... (supplying number of new paragraph);

Same paragraph, sentence three reads: ...Brigade troops in El Angel Sugar Mill, 14 km north of... (supplying indistinct words);

From same graf, last sentence, make read... Salvador and Quezaltepeque. [new graf]

7. Our units attacked... (supplying number of paragraph).

Honduras

Government Appoints First Ambassador to USSR

PA1207160291 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Carlos Manuel Zeron, former Honduran ambassador to Guatemala, will be the first Honduran ambassador to the USSR, it was reported this weekend in the capital.

President Callejas has instructed the diplomat concerning the start of relations between Honduras and the USSR. Zeron will also be the nation's diplomatic representative to the UK, Sweden, and Norway.

USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's administration will provide Honduras with aid for forestry, energy, and agriculture, including a supply of farming machinery.

According to Zeron, the idea is to establish a cultural and sports exchange with the USSR.

The first Honduran ambassador to the USSR met last week with that country's representative in Nicaragua to review the procedures for a commercial exchange.

Zeron, who has also been economy minister, will assume his post on 1 August.

* Nationwide Strife Over Land Ownership Reported

* Land Reform Failure Blamed

91CA0172A San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jun 91 p 12

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The economic adjustment program imposed by the government will aggravate the social inequalities in the rural sector and reduce the production of basic grains, and if agrarian reform is not promoted, a situation of violence involving disputes over land will be generated, the Honduran College of Economists (CHE) has warned.

The economists set forth this picture at a press conference called to present the conclusions of a seminar on "Agrarian Reform, Structural Adjustment Programs, and the Farm Sector." The government participated in this seminar, which was held last week.

The economists said that in the decade of the 1970s, the transfer of a total of 600,000 hectares to 120,000 peasant families by 1980 was established as a goal. However, they say, this still has not been achieved in 1991, while the process of agrarian reform has been paralyzed because of the lack of political determination on the part of the government.

Nonetheless, they noted, the 300,000 hectares of land which have been turned over to the peasants in the last 30 years have made it possible to maintain the atmosphere of social stability which exists in Honduras, while neighboring nations have waged civil wars.

They said that if the government does not give definite impetus to a process of democratizing the distribution of the land, a pattern of violence aggravated by the inability of the peasants to obtain access to the means of subsistence will proceed to develop.

They gave assurance that the landowners, on the other hand, have never ceased to increase their holdings, for use in livestock-breeding activities in particular, at the expense of peasant sacrifice and the forest frontier.

Economist Rafael de Cid said that the failure of agrarian reform can be attributed to the politicians, the military, and the landowners.

Efrain Diaz Arivillaga said, for his part, that "there has been a lack of determination to promote sustained agrarian reform."

The former Christian democratic deputy said that the government is trying to use the agrarian dispute to block the demands of the peasant masses for land.

The economists said that the adjustment plan is designed to attract foreign and domestic capital by providing tremendous facilities and attractive measures within a scheme offering cheap domestic manpower for production destined for export.

The economists said the promotion of a process of agrarian reform is essential, together with a process of adjustment which is less painful for the majority of almost 2 million Honduran citizens who are living below the poverty line.

"Agrarian reform could alleviate the worst effects of the structural adjustment programs by providing the most seriously affected sectors with the resources they need to achieve increases in productivity," one of the economists said at the conclusion of the seminar.

The group suggested that the peasant organizations should be regarded as potential "purchasers of public farm-service enterprises."

Similarly, "mechanisms designed to facilitate internal democratic practice" in the peasant organizations should be adopted, and the government should create conditions "so that the rural areas can become zones generating jobs and wealth."

They recommended channeling public investments into the rural sector to prevent the concentration of peasants in the poverty areas encircling the cities.

* Land Takeovers Planned

91CA0172B Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 May 91 p 2

[Text] Within the agrarian reform sector, more than 100,000 manzanas of land are scheduled for recovery, but to date not even half of this goal has been achieved, according to the directors of the sector. This means that the so-called recovery operations for land suited to crop raising and livestock breeding will continue in the coming days.

Leaders of the various peasant organizations said they had no estimate of the number of manzanas of land in their possession as a result of seizures and the allocations effected by the National Agrarian Institute (INA).

Traditionally, the peasant groups carry out operations on a national level in April and May of each year, taking over idle and uncultivated land which, their leaders say, is owned by the landlords, in order to cultivate it during this season of the year. These seizures have already cost some lives in Agua Caliente, Arizona, Atlantida, and the representatives of the peasants say that their lives are in danger due to the negligence of the INA authorities in allocating land.

Rafael Alegria, national and international relations secretary of the National Field Workers Coordinating Group (CNTC), said that the goal of the organization is

to recover 30,000 manzanas to benefit 1,500 families, but to date only 5,100 manzanas have been recovered.

"May is the sowing season, and when the INA is incapable of allocating land in accordance with legal methods, we find ourselves forced to undertake recovery operations on a national level," Alegria said by way of justification.

He charged that there are armed shock troops in Atlantida, and that their mission is to provoke the peasants, so that they can assassinate them. In this connection, he appealed to the highest Armed Forces authorities to put an end to this situation.

It is the view of this leader that massacres like that which occurred last 3 May in the Agua Caliente sector should be prevented. There five peasants lost their lives, and another seven were wounded.

Hernan Medina, the education secretary of the ACAN-UNC [National Campesino Association-National Campesino Union], said that its goal is to recover some 12,000 manzanas of land, but he could not say exactly how much land has been recovered to date.

Victor Calix, president of the National Association of Honduran Peasants (Anach), stated that its purpose is to recover some 45,000 manzanas of land to benefit 750 families.

"For the time being, I do not have an exact figure for the area recovered thus far in this operation, but I believe that we have not achieved even half," Calix said.

Marcial Caballero, the secretary general of the UNC, which is affiliated with the General Federation of Workers, said for his part that his group is also recovering land, but without making much fuss.

He said that he had submitted to the president of the Republic a report indicating that 107 peasant groups were landless, and 76 were involved in conflicts.

"We want to recover 29,000 manzanas in order to be able to settle 7,600 families, and we are not going to hinder the actions of our members," Caballero said.

The lawyer Gustavo Acosta Mejia charged yesterday that agrarian reform has only served to enrich a few peasant leaders, and he said that before the agrarian process was implemented, the farm businessmen were those who made the land productive.

What Acosta Mejia said was refuted yesterday by peasant leaders, who alleged that he is one of the enemies of the process of agrarian reform.

They also denied that they seize land ready for cultivation, as some claim. They said that the landlords and their stooges always try to obscure the work of the peasants.

They gave warning that the land recovery, or seizures, as the landlords call them, will continue in the coming days. However, "we are taking over idle and uncultivated land, not land prepared for planting."

* Land Problems Outlined

91CA0172C Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 16 May 91 p 9

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] With the arrival of the rainy season, the old problem of people who have no land to cultivate and who attempt to acquire it by means of violent operations called "land recoveries" comes to the fore again.

This phenomenon challenges traditional ownership and leads to serious clashes, sometimes stained with blood or by gestures motivated by the profound enmity handed down from generation to generation. This very thing is happening in the country at present. On the basis of statements from the peasant leaders, our newspaper has reported that the demand for land this year has reached 100,000 hectares, "which must be won during June and what remains of the month of May" in order to meet the demands of the peasants members of their various organizations. The daily newspaper EL HERALDO said in its report on this situation yesterday that Hernan Medina, the education secretary of the ACAN-UNC [National Campesino Association-National Campesino Union], estimates that the goal is to recover some 12,000 manzanas of land. Meanwhile, Victor Calix, president of the National Association of Honduran Peasants, said its purpose is to "recover" some 45,000 manzanas of land to benefit some 750 families.

According to the report, the secretary general of the National Campesino Union, which is affiliated with the General Federation of Workers, stated for his part that his group is also recovering land, but without making much fuss. He said that he had delivered a report to the president of the Republic indicating that 107 peasant groups were landless and 67 were engaged in conflicts. Mr. Caballero's statement said that "we intend to recover 29,000 manzanas in order to be able to settle 7,600 families, and we will not hinder the actions of our members."

Another leader consulted estimates that some 3,000 peasants have undertaken to seize plots of land in the departments of Cortes, Atlantida, and Yoro. In just the first of these, some 27 peasant groups now have control of 500 manzanas of land.

The peasant operations are spreading to other zones of the country, leaving a deep trail of resentments and desires for revenge. [passage omitted]

Concerning the INA [National Agrarian Institute], its policies, and the care with which it must guard against the invasions or recoveries by the peasants, there are

serious doubts. The responsibilities of the agrarian executives in the region in this new stage of agrarian disturbances are unclear. New investors and traditional producers find themselves subject to the threat of seizures today. Land in production has been invaded in Cortes, and the owners do not know to whom to turn for protection. Properties repeatedly certified as nonassignable are being penetrated by the invaders, and no one is coming to the aid of those who invested their capital, relying on the law and the word of the government leaders that the terms of their ownership and production would be respected.

Honduras cannot continue in this situation of chaos, anarchy, and irresponsibility. If there is no respect for property, who will come here to invest his money? The agrarian agreement was yet another joke played on the naive....

* Peasants Killed

91CA0172D Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 16 May 91 p 44

[Text] El Ceibon, Santa Barbara—A new agrarian clash in the community of El Ceibon, in the municipality of San Luis, Santa Barbara, which occurred yesterday morning when an effort was made to oust a group of peasants who had seized possession of 350 manzanas of land, left four persons dead and six wounded.

It was learned from a reliable source that the Lempira Union, a peasant group belonging to the National Field Workers Coordinating Group [CNTC], was set upon by the alleged owners of the disputed land attempting to regain their properties.

The CNTC confirmed the death of the peasant Juan Gabarrete, who was shot in the forehead and the chest with a .38 caliber gun, and it was reported that Valerio Vega, Urbano Hernandez, and Lito Juarez also died, as a result of machete wounds.

These latter individuals were part of an alleged shock group organized by the landowners to undertake the forceful removal of the peasant group.

The problem originated when the Lempira Union of the CNTC seized 350 manzanas of land on 11 April, to which they claimed ownership, based on their application to the National Agrarian Institute [INA].

Initially it was reported that the land belonged to Laura Munoz, the mother of Urbano Hernandez, although this point has not been confirmed.

When the clash which led to the results described above occurred at 0600 yesterday, the peasant group included only 25 members armed with machetes, who faced 40 members of the shock group armed with .38 caliber firearms.

A vigil was held for the dead peasant, Juan Gabarrete, at his home in his place of birth, the La Vara settlement in Macuelizo, Santa Barbara. No other information was available on the other individuals killed.

Those who were seriously wounded in the clash were taken to the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula, where they received medical aid.

Some of those wounded were Julio Benitez, Luis Reyes Munguia, Carlos Garcia, and Juan Campos. The others were not identified.

An INA commission headed by the director, Juan Ramon Martinez, is expected to arrive today to investigate the facts at the site of these confrontations.

To date there has been no report of individuals captured at the conclusion of the peasant clash.

The incident yesterday was the second bloody clash in the Honduran farm sector due to a dispute over land in fewer than 15 days. The first occurred on 3 May in the community of Agua Caliente, Arizona, Atlantida, where individuals wearing military uniforms and equipped with Army AK-47s killed five peasants and wounded several others on land which had been allocated to them by the INA, but regarded by Colonel Leonel Galindo as his property.

* Peasants Arrested, Charged

91CA0172E Tegucigalpa TIEMPO in Spanish 18 May 91 p 9

[Text] (EMA) San Pedro Sula—A total of 35 peasants have been tried in the past two weeks for seizing land. Of these, 11 are charged with terrorism and face the possibility of prison sentences, according to Francisco Ramos, regional secretary general of the National Field Workers Coordinating Group [CNTC], who is also one of those on trial.

Ramos said that the defendants belong to the Santa Barbara, 11 Cortes, and five Yoro peasant groups, all of them affiliated with the CNTC.

He said that he and 10 peasants in the Moises Landaverde group, located on the Nance River, in the municipality of Choloma, have been accused by Chahin Investments of usurpation, alteration of boundary markers, breaking and entering, terrorism, and setting fires, the charges concerning these last two crimes being unfounded.

The charges, which are being heard in the Second Criminal Court in this city, are part of a suit filed by the enterprise as a result of the seizure of 325 manzanas of land by the members of the group in recent days.

The leader said that the land was not under cultivation at the time of the seizure, and that in addition, the purchase of these properties was effected in suspicious form from alleged drug traffickers—Lucho Guerrero, Adolfo Lorza, and Julio Rojas—in the knowledge that the group had already occupied the land.

He said that although Chahin Investments is arguing that the land has been certified unassignable, this certification was improperly obtained with the aid of corrupt employees of the National Agrarian Institute and was revoked by a court judgment issued by a group of jurists brought from Tegucigalpa.

The peasant group, with which 68 families and the CNTC are affiliated, proposed a possible solution to the problem to lawyer Silvia Rojas de Santos, the legal adviser of the above enterprise. Ramos said that the proposal called for the allocation of a plot of 100 manzanas to the peasant group, but she said that "they would not surrender even an inch of land." The agrarian leader emphasized that this response demonstrated the intransigence of the enterprise, despite the fact that the land is lying completely fallow.

The rest of the peasants in the San Luis, Santa Barbara, and El Progreso Yoro sectors are charged with usurpation and damaging and altering boundary markers. Of the 24 persons arrested, five are from El Progreso Yoro and 19 are from San Luis. However, six have already been released on bond against a total of more than 15,000 lempiras paid to the local Office of the Justice of the Peace.

The others are still in custody, except for three minors who were released this week, he noted. All of them were charged with carrying out actions to recover land, Ramos emphasized.

Also, the CNTC leader said that the trials, and particularly his, as a leader, were part of a new strategy being employed by the landlords to oppose the agrarian reform process.

However, the leader said, instead of resolving the problems, this situation makes them more acute.

He further said that the landowners claim that they are making these charges against the peasants in order to reduce the pressure on the land they are allowing to lie fallow.

Jorge Torres, the CNTC peasant leader in the Santa Barbara region, maintained that the more pressure is exerted on the peasantry, the more forceful the recovery actions will be. "Come what may, we will continue to take more land, because this is our goal and that of the operation being carried out on the national level," he said in conclusion.

* Landholder Violence

91CA0172F San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 30 May 91 p 18

[Text] (FRE) Tegucigalpa—The deputy secretary general of the National Field Workers Coordinating Group, Jesus Guerra Arita, has charged that because of the recent seizures of uncultivated plots of land, the owners have accelerated their persecution and harassment of various peasant groups located in various sectors of the country.

Guerra Arita explained that his organization alone has 104 peasant members who have been put on trial, 16 who have been arrested, and 200 who have been freed on bail.

He said that the peasant groups located in the departments of Santa Barbara, Cortes, La Paz, Colon, and Francisco Morazan are those which are suffering most from constant threats and harassment by the landlords.

The leader said that in the municipality of San Luis, Santa Barbara, last Monday, landowner Reynaldo Leiva, accompanied by his sons, shot at a peasant group which has been settled on the land for three years. "Fortunately, no one was killed or wounded, because when they realized that they were under fire, the peasants threw themselves on the ground."

He also said that "we have information that the El Sembrador peasant group in Mercala, La Paz, is being threatened by the rancher Rene Mejia, who has brought along FUSEP [Public Security Force] agents in an effort to oust the peasants, although no court order was presented."

He charged that this week, Mejia sent an unidentified individual around to warn the members of the group that if they do not leave the land, they will suffer the same fate as the peasants who were murdered in Atlantida.

Our interlocutor said that the peasants are facing a difficult period, because they are being falsely charged with crimes, while the judges rule in favor of the landowners.

He said that one such specific case involves a cooperative which bought a plot in Trujillo, Colon, while landlord Jesus Martinez now claims he owns a part of the land.

Guerra Arita said that the cooperative had title to the land, but that Judge Francisco Portillo showed partiality toward Martinez, and has no interest in settling the conflict.

"The government has promised to resolve these problems, but there have been nothing but promises, because the conflicts continue and are becoming more complicated every day," he noted.

* Strife Blamed on INA

91CA0172G San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 May 91 p 9

[Text] (CMF) Tegucigalpa—The Honduran Peasant Organization Coordination Council (COCOCH) charged yesterday that the escalation of violence in the rural sector is the result of the strategy being pursued by some landlords with the aid of officials at the National Agrarian Institute [INA].

The COCOCH, which includes the majority of the peasant organizations in the country, set forth its concern about and indignation at the tragic deaths of peasants in the La Ceibita, San Luis, and Santa Barbara sectors, and the recent crimes committed against five peasants in Arizona, Atlantida, in a statement delivered to the press at the presidential headquarters just moments before a meeting with President Rafael Callejas.

"These events are the result of the new strategy drafted by some landowners for the purpose of destroying agrarian reform. Within this context, they are organizing and arming peasant groups in order to send them to kill their peasant brothers," the organization said.

"We have information that there will be various clashes similar to those described above in the near future," the members of the organization emphasized. They charged that "a number of officials at the National Agrarian Institute are encouraging these incidents, possibly because they agree with the strategy some landowners are pursuing." The COCOCH—which incorporates the Anach [National Association of Honduran Peasants], UNC [National Campesino Union], ACAN [National Campesino Association], CANTC [expansion not given], FECORAH [Federation of Honduran Agrarian Reform Cooperatives], and Fehmuc [Honduran Peasant Women's Federation]—issued an appeal to the peasants, urging them to remain calm and to refuse to play the game of those who have never contributed anything to the defense of their interests. In response to this accusation, Juan Ramon Martinez, the director of the INA, said that "I have publicly asked their leaders to submit to me in writing the names, the incidents, and the evidence involving our personnel as soon as possible, so that we can immediately undertake an investigation. And if these alleged actions were committed, we will proceed with immediate dismissals."

Nahum Calix, the coordinator of the COCOCH, said for his part that it has been confirmed to President of the Republic Rafael Callejas that there are officials in the INA who are sponsoring some of these actions which are occurring in the rural sector.

"They are responsible for, or accomplices in, many of these things which are happening in the rural sector," he said, "and the necessary corrective steps will be taken shortly."

He stated that the COCOCH continues to maintain its position of nonparticipation in the Agrarian Agreement until justice is done for the recent violent events in the rural sector, and he added that participation may be renewed once the assembly has made its decision.

* Church Support for Peasants

91CA0172H San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 May 91 p 9

[Text] We, the parish priests of the San Pedro Sula Diocese, meeting today in this Assembly to deal with the business of the Holy Mission, can do no less than concern ourselves with the most sad and regrettable incident which occurred on 3 May in the settlement of Agua Caliente, in the Lean Valley, within the jurisdiction of this diocese.

1. First of all, we regret and forcefully condemn this very serious act of violence, which has seriously grieved a number of families.

2. We admire the great Christian serenity with which these families have faced this terrible test. They have thereby set a fine example of Christian strength and borne magnificent witness for all of us. We offer our fervent prayers for them and for the family members they have lost.

3. In greatest earnestness, we beg that this incident be exhaustively investigated and that full justice be done.

4. We believe that this and other similar incidents have occurred because agrarian reform has not been carried out seriously and justly in our fatherland. We urge that this be undertaken with the greatest determination, with a timely effort to prevent such regrettable problems as this, wherein the poor, who should be those receiving aid, are punished. We know that problems like this exist, but we are persuaded that if they are approached with proper attention, they can be prevented from leading to similar tragedies.

We pray to God that the blood shed, united with that of the Lord, will be the ferment for justice, love, peace, and development for our suffering peasants and for the entire fatherland.

San Pedro Sula, 9 May 1991, for the entire Assembly: Reverend Buenaventura Sola, CM; Porfirio Ruiz, CMF; Antonio Quetglas, CM, Parish of San Pedro Apostol. Vicar General; Jaime Brufau, CM, Bishop of San Pedro Sula.

Nicaragua

Details for Upcoming FSLN Congress Provided

PA1607012191 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Report by Juan Ramon Huerta]

[Text] Matagalpa—Commanders Tomas Borge and Bayardo Arce have announced here that more than 100 delegates from 36 countries of America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, representing 55 political parties and several international organizations, have confirmed their participation as guests in the First Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] Congress which begins on 18 July.

Borge and Arce attended a preparatory meeting with the delegates to the national congress from the Sixth Region. They indicated there is great expectation in the world about the FSLN event because it is the first in its 30 years

of existence and will be held at a time when the country is experiencing very difficult times.

Arce said that the first guests will arrive in the country on 14 July. He said the congress will begin at 1430 on 18 July with an installation session and that it will be officially opened on 19 July in the presence of local and foreign journalists and political personalities.

One of the first decisions to be made by the congress will be the election of the president of the congress. Commander Tomas Borge has been proposed for this position. William Ramirez and Emilio Baltodano are candidates to be the chairmen of the Bylaws and Program Commissions, respectively.

The First FSLN Congress will be installed with 582 delegates: 500 were elected from the rank and file, 75 are members of the Sandinist Assembly, and seven are members of the current FSLN National Directorate.

Two commissions of 100 members each will be installed to discuss the FSLN's bylaws and its program and principles. The plenum will hear the political report which will be publicly circulating at the latest on 17 July, and it will also hear the report of the Ethics Commission.

On 19 July there will be a recess at 1800 so that the delegates can participate in a mass rally to mark the 12th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution. After the rally, the delegates will return to their sessions at the Olof Palme Convention Center.

On 20 July, the congress will hear the reports of each commission, and that night it will elect the new 80-member Sandinist Assembly on the basis of the various proposals coming from the rank and file. Sixty will be elected by the congress and 20 will participate on the basis of their positions, such as departmental political secretaries, Sandinist Youth secretary, and chief of the Sandinist deputies.

Other party positions will be filled on 21 July, including the National Directorate, the Ethics Commission, the secretary general, and treasurer. Borge and Arce explained that the National Directorate will be elected by direct and secret vote, through lists that must be registered by 70 delegates from nine departments.

The candidates to the posts of secretary general and treasurer are Commanders Daniel Ortega and Henry Ruiz, respectively.

The aim behind the proposals for the new Sandinist Assembly, which will be elected by direct, secret, and individual vote, is to have a combination of nationwide, sectorial, and territorial representatives, so that the body that will replace the FSLN Congress during a three-year period will have a balanced representation from all sectors, regions, and corners of the country.

For the election of the Ethics and Honor Commission, there is a proposal to elect its five to seven members at the national level, rather than electing regional representatives.

The candidates to the Sandinist Assembly from Matagalpa and Jinotega were elected in Matagalpa on 12 July.

Minister Claims Sovereignty Over San Juan River

PA1207204491 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Nicaragua has exclusive sovereignty over the San Juan River as expressly stated in the Canas-Jerez Treaty, stated Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus, referring to the Ibero-American summit to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The foreign minister recalled the terms of the Canas-Jerez Treaty that established Nicaragua's total sovereignty over the San Juan River waters.

[Begin Dreyfus recording] This is not a matter of partisanship, it is a national issue. All Nicaraguans—no matter what party they belong to—are committed to defending sovereignty and to interpreting the treaties correctly and definitely in benefit of Nicaragua. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Mauricio (Ordoze) [not further identified] noted that Costa Rica has a right to free navigation on the San Juan River but trade is strictly limited.

Foreign Minister Dreyfus reported on the recommendations to be made by the foreign ministers at the Central American presidential summit that takes into account the integration [word indistinct].

[Begin Dreyfus recording] More and more, the economic and the political aspects are interconnected, therefore, it is logical that these two merge as one. [end recording]

Dreyfus disclosed that at the meeting Panama had stated its integration into Central America. The ministers also recommended sending a note to the European Community's president of registrars requesting the approval of preferential trade barriers on Central American export products. Dreyfus also reported on the request to hold off the Central American Parliament elections for 24 months.

[Begin Dreyfus recording] From now until the date of the elections, the countries that have not held elections can send a delegation of permanent observers to the session to get acquainted with the activities of the Central American Parliament. [end recording]

Panama

Assembly Approves Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty

PA1507222791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2206 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Legislative Assembly, meeting in special sessions, today approved, without any modification, the Mutual

Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) signed with the United States in April to fight the "laundering" of drug trafficking money.

The MLAT, which was criticized by a sector of the Panamanian opposition that considered it harmful to the country's sovereignty, was approved by 39 votes in favor and 10 against.

Further on Approval

PA1607003191 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2322 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] After five days of special sessions of the Legislative Assembly, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAT] has been approved in the third debate. In less than four hours of sessions, the legislators of the government and opposition parties today approved in the third debate the bill on the MLAT signed by the Panamanian and U.S. Governments. During the session that began at 1030, Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislators Gerardo Gonzalez and Apolonio Acosta asked the Assembly to submit the treaty bill to second debate so as to present a document clarifying the content and introduction of the treaty. This request was rejected by a vote of 28 votes against, eight in favor, and eight abstentions.

After much discussion of the treaty, the bill was submitted to a vote at 1425. It was approved by a vote of 47 in favor, nine against, and no abstentions. After the vote, and in the presence of Acting Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino, Foreign Committee Chairman Olimpo Saez, and other committee members, the bill was signed. It will now be sent to the Presidency of the Republic.

[Begin Saez recording] Let us all remember that this treaty will be implemented by Panamanians, and therefore the public, media, political parties, professional organizations, Banking Association, and legislators will have to be watchful so that the Government and Justice Ministry will fill the office that will be implementing the treaty with honest and professional men who are knowledgeable in both Hispanic and Anglo-Saxon law, men with courage, men with guts, who do not tremble when foreign pressure is exerted. That is Panama's responsibility because we are the administrators of that treaty. [end recording]

The treaty has the objective of establishing more effective cooperation between the United States and Panama in the investigation, prosecution, and suppression of serious crimes such as drug trafficking, and improving coordination and mutual assistance in the enforcement of the law. It will now be sent to the president so he can sign it. It will then be submitted to the U.S. Senate, which could introduce amendments to the treaty.

Endara Says Treaty 'Necessary'

PA1407003191 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has said that the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty is necessary for Panama. He also pointed out that the military officers involved in drug trafficking activities would not be extradited.

[Begin recording] [Endara] There is no pressure from the United States at all. We Panamanians want this treaty because it washes from our face the bad international reputation created by the Noriega dictatorship.

[Reporter] Will the military officers remain in Panama?

[Endara] I do not know what military officers you are talking about.

[Reporter] Those who are currently in prison.

[Endara] No, they are Panamanians. They cannot be extradited for any reason. [end recording]

Vice President Skeptical Over Growth Figures

PA1207141591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jul 91 p 20a

[Text] First Vice President Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon has pointed out that the government's publicity regarding Panama's economic growth has been dishonest, since they did not disclose that they were comparing 1989-1990 yearly figures with April 1990-1991 figures.

Arias Calderon stated that clearly there has been some growth between one year and the other. The starting points used were the lowest levels of Panama's economic crisis during the last months of the dictatorship, and the first months under a democracy when the banking system was still paralyzed.

Vice President Arias Calderon, who is also president of the Christian Democratic Party, upholds that this growth has clearly been insufficient, since the economy is far from its 1987 levels, which is when the dictatorship crisis exploded. Even at that time the level of growth was already representing serious difficulties for the country.

He also stated that the 3.4-percent growth in the GNP in 1990, according to figures announced by MIPPE [Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy], is not enough to solve all the social problems that afflict the country.

Arias Calderon believes that the economy as a whole has stagnated during the second half of 1991, and that the economic dilemma must be overcome because the consolidation of democracy and the well-being of the people are in jeopardy.

He also points out that for the government to rectify its course with respect to the economy, it has to do several things, the first of which is to comply with the budget legislation. Adding that "although this budget authorized 24 billion balboas in investments, only 9.5 billion balboas (39.5 percent) have been used."

The first vice president said that the current account balance is 67.3 billion balboas. The net balance was 33.4 billion balboas, which was not used to stimulate the

economy even though it was available. This is what has taken place despite the fact that during the end of 1990, payments were made to Banco Nacional and the Social Security Institute, which were not contemplated in the budget, and therefore should not have been made without the approval of the Legislative Budget Commission.

Arias Calderon warned that the economic team that advises the Executive Office is responsible for the current situation. This includes the minister of planning and economic policy, who heads the National Economic Council (CENA), the finance minister, and the comptroller general.

He added: "Naturally, if the president would show more interest in the financial and economic affairs of the government, his role would be a lot more decisive."

Legislator Group Demands 'Greater Participation'

PA140712569l Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1330 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The popular television characters known as the "Ninja Turtles" have established their "general headquarters" at the Panamanian legislature, and are planning to demand "greater participation" in political decisions, a representative for the singular group said on 11 July.

The self-styled "Ninja legislators," who emulate the green turtles, have decided to unite and form a movement within the legislature of younger legislators, said Legislator Marcos Ameglio, a proud member of the group.

The members of the "Ninja" group belong to the three political parties that comprise the government alliance, and they want to fulfill a mission of "fairness and struggle," in addition to increasing their participation in the legislative effort, Ameglio told a Panama City television reporter.

They constitute a majority of the government faction and they are trying to make a "concerted effort" to "change" the course of the legislature's work. To set themselves apart they have "Ninja Turtle" emblems on their vehicles, on their seats at the legislature, and on their clothing.

They have also christened their more experienced colleagues the "herons."

One of the "herons," government Legislator Leo Gonzalez, said that they are playing a healthy game, but he warned that it could become "dangerous" if the government becomes "pigeonholed."

Meanwhile, the "Ninjas" are considering the possibility of having their own ticket for the forthcoming Legislative Assembly board of directors elections in September which, according to observers, is making "many a heron tremble."

PRD Willing To Discuss Aspects of Canal Treaty

PA1507221691 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Jul 91 p 8D

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Ernesto Perez Balladares, general secretary of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), has said that this party would be "willing" to negotiate with the United States on certain aspects of the Canal Treaty, but without denying or going back on the Torrijos-Carter agreements.

According to the former minister, Panama's best interests lie in insisting on the compliance of the treaty that ends 2000, but keeping in mind that there is a continuous history of negotiations between the United States and Panama.

Perez Balladares added that due to similar interests, there is a special relationship between both countries. It is therefore difficult to predict what is going to be negotiated at a specific time.

According to Perez Balladares, the best Panamanian negotiating positions must be adopted following the guidelines of the Torrijos-Carter Treaty, and not by disregarding these guidelines as certain Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] sectors are suggesting.

Leo Gonzalez, president of the Canal Affairs Commission of the National Assembly and a Molirena party member, recently proposed that a plebiscite take place in order for all Panamanians to decide whether or not they want the United States to remain or withdraw from their military bases after the year 2000.

Government Rules Out Guerrilla Attack on Plane

PA1507200691 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Jul 91 p 12

[Text] High-ranking goverment officials have ruled out the possibility that guerrillas shot at a National Air Service [SAN] airplane while on a reconnaissance mission near Burica Point, Chiriqui Province.

Government officials have said that they do not believe there are people crazy enough to lose their lives over senseless causes, referring to those who shot at the SAN airplane. They also ruled out that these were drug traffickers by saying that it could have been someone who "fired accidentally."

The SAN director, other officials, and citizens have repeatedly said that they have seen strange movements on our coasts, as well as drops of drug-filled bags. Therefore, other sectors believe that those who fired at the government airplane could be drug traffickers.

A Judicial Technical Police source told EL SIGLO that up to now no one knows who shot at the SAN airplane in Chiriqui.

Kuna Indians Take Up Arms Over Land Problems

PA1207135591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Jul 91 p 8a

[Text] On 10 July, tenant farmers and Ipeti Kuna Indians almost clashed and the Pan-American Highway was closed for several hours. A few government officials were also kidnapped by the Indians for several hours in an area of the Alto Bayano known as Guacuaco and Torti.

The Kuna Indians, who have taken up arms, threatened that blood would flow if an immediate solution to the land invasion problem is not found. These lands were granted to them by the deceased General Omar Torrijos Herrera in 1976.

The Indians closed the Pan-American Highway with tree trunks, tanks, heavy chains, and many men and women, including some whose faces were painted.

The following government officials traveled to the area to confront the Indians: Plutarco Arrocha, governor of Panama Province; Luis F. Narvaez, legislator and general director of Inrenare [Institute of Renewable Natural Resources]; Armando Espinosa, director of the Bayano Corporation; and Raul Mendieta, MIPPE [Planning and Economic Policy Ministry] representative and mayor of Chepo.

Directors Narvaez and Espinosa were held by the Indians while Governor Arrocha and Legislator Garibaldo talked with the tenant farmers of Torti. These officials were kidnapped because there were only 20 policemen and they were not able to handle the situation.

According to reports supplied by Governor Arrocha, Indian men moved into the surrounding forest with heavy-caliber weapons and readied themselves to attack on the night of 9 July.

The unexpected arrival of the National Air Service helicopter, overflying the area at a low altitute, surprised the Indians and caused confusion among them. Narvaez and Espinosa took advantage of this situation to escape, Arrocha said.

At the beginning, the talks with the farmers were held calmly because they accepted the alternative proposed by the government: a five-hectare tract of land for each family that agrees to be relocated at Lower Torti, as soon as the proper documents are completed.

The officials later went to where the Kuna Indians were waiting, but they were received with shouts and threats to kidnap Governor Arrocha. The Indians tried unsuccessfully to lock him in a wooden house they called "of the Congress."

The dialogue lasted four hours, after which the highway was cleared and a truce was agreed upon that would last until 16 July, when the talks would be resumed at the Panama governorship to try to find a definitive solution to the problem.

Bolivia

General Backs Relations With Cuban Military

PY1607000691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1855 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Havana, 14 Jul (EFE)—Division General Oscar Escobar, Bolivian Army chief of staff, said today in Havana that he advocates closer relations between the Bolivian and Cuban Armed Forces.

Regarding his one week visit to Cuba at the head of a Bolivian military delegation, Gen. Escobar told the press: "This is the starting point for more fluid relations between the armed forces of the two countries in the future."

Gen. Escobar, who returned to Bolivia today with the delegation, said he was very impressed with Cuban military power, which he was able to evaluate during his seven day stay in Cuba.

Commander Says Army May Stay Out of Drug Fight

PY1607020491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2020 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] A newspaper reported today that General Guido Sandoval, the Army commander in chief, has stated that if alleged drug kingpins continue to hand themselves in, there will be no need for the Army to participate in the fight against drug trafficking.

In remarks to the newspaper HOY, the Army commander in chief termed as "positive" the new turn of events in the fight against drugs in Bolivia since Erwin Guzman, the alleged "number one" in the country's drug trafficking, handed himself in on 11 July.

This has to be added to the fact that other drug traffickers will turn themselves in to the authorities in the very near future.

According to Sandoval: "If this legal prospect becomes reality in the country and if it is supported by the main "kingpins" of Bolivian drug trafficking, there is no reason for the Army to participate in the fight against drug trafficking."

A light infantry battalion has been trained to participate in the fight against drug trafficking after receiving a 10 week period of training; another unit will be trained in September.

A special police unit, made up of 1,000 men, with logistical support from the Navy and Air Force, has been charged with fighting the illegal production and sale of drugs within the country.

Legal Plan Prepared for Drug Traffickers

PY1507191091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1746 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jul (EFE)—The Bolivian Government has prepared the legal procedures to deal with drug traffickers who surrender to the authorities. This plan will be made public within 48 hours.

The plan was handed in today, 15 July, to Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora by Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra.

Saavedra was charged with preparing the plan. He said: "The plan has already been submitted, and it will serve as basis for legal procedures, within the Bolivian legal system, to deal with those linked with drug trafficking and who surrender to the authorities."

Last Thursday, 11 July, Erwin Guzman, considered by the DEA to be the "number one" drug trafficker in Bolivia, turned himself in to the authorities.

Earlier this month, relatives of Bolivian drug barons told the interior minister that they are willing to surrender provided that they are not extradited to the United States.

The Bolivian Government has not yet made an official statement on the proposal. Although, it has admitted that it will be advantageous if the drug traffickers surrender.

Japanese Government Donates $25 Million

PY1607023491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Jul 91 p 7

[Summary] The Bolivian and Japanese Governments on 5 July signed "notes" through which Japan will donate $25 million to Bolivia. This fund will be used to improve the soil in three Bolivian departments, to purchase equipment to expand and maintain roads in Tarija and Chuquisaca Departments, and to restore water sources in Cochabamba Department.

Brazil

Minister Departs for Cuba; To Sign Accords

PY1607011891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Education Minister Carlos Chiarelli today traveled to Cuba where he will sign agreements on promoting exchanges between the two countries in the areas of literacy programs, research, and education.

After Cuba, Minister Chiarelli will travel to the United States where he will sign agreements with UNICEF and the World Bank on building technical and physical education schools and equipping them with computers.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Begins Visit

PY1607011691 Brasilia Voz do Brazil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Brazil and Czechoslovakia have eliminated a need for visas for bearers of diplomatic and special passports. Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier commented that this represents another step in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Czechoslovakia currently buys many Brazilian goods, such as foodstuffs, and sells Brazil raw materials for beer and machinery.

According to Minister Dienstbier, an agreement on the sale of light rail vehicles for Belo Horizonte should be closed shortly; the deal will total $200 million. This issue will be discussed by Dienstbier and Economy Minister Marcio Marques Moreira tomorrow.

The Czechoslovak minister spent today making diplomatic contacts. He met with President Fernando Collor, Congress President Senator Mauro Benevides, and Federal Supreme Court President Sydney Sanches.

Dienstbier arrived in Brasilia yesterday for a three-day visit.

Economy Minister Views Expectations for Inflation

PY1607021291 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Despite the fact that he does not expect the inflation rate to reach 10 percent in July, Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira admitted yesterday that this is not an indication of economic stability; consequently, the government will maintain austerity in its monetary and fiscal policies. He believes price hikes in the first three weeks of July occurred only because of the beginning of negotiations in sectorial chambers.

The minister said: "We should first put inflation on a downward trend. I believe, we will manage to achieve this goal, but I cannot set deadlines or awaken expectations in terms of figures."

The minister does not believe demand will skyrocket after the release of frozen cruzados. He believes that existing financial instruments, such as the savings system, will absorb a great deal of the money.

Terrorist Link With Plane Bombing Ruled Out

Police Chief Comments

PY1507181891 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] The Federal Police have ruled out the possibility that the bomb found last week aboard a Japanese jetliner has anything to do with an international terrorist group. Police Federal Chief Romeu Tuma said today that the bomb was placed in the suitcase of a passenger at the Cumbica Airport in Sao Paulo and not in Paraguay.

According to Tuma, the person responsible for the attack has access to the service sector or is an airport official.

Attributed to Single Individual

PY1607013491 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Federal Police experts have finished examining the bomb found on a Japanese Airline [JAL] aircraft last week and Federal Police Chief Romeu Tuma said the act was not perpetrated by terrorists.

U.S. and Japanese policemen closely followed the work carried out by Sao Paulo Federal Police experts who analyzed the components and method used to manufacture the bomb found inside a suitcase belonging to Takaaki Iguchi on the 10 July JAL flight bound for Japan from Guarulhos International Airport in Sao Paulo.

After a meeting here in Sao Paulo, Romeu Tuma explained that the attack was not perpetrated by terrorists.

[Begin Tuma recording] After a careful examination we have ruled out, with a great degree of certainty, the possibility that the attack was perpetrated by a group of terrorists and have come to the conclusion that since the bomb is very rudimentary, according to the experts, the action was perpetrated by an individual who had something personal in mind. In view of the way the bomb was placed inside the suitcase, which had already been cleared by the airline, and the time that elapsed from the moment the suitcase was dispatched to the time the bomb was placed inside it, and according to some other details noticed by the experts, we have come to the conclusion that the bomb is very rudimentary, and that it was manufactured in someone's backyard. [end recording]

Tuma also disclosed that investigations involving airport personnel, with free access to the restricted part of the airport, have been put in progress.

INSS President Rossi to Remain in Office

PY1407032091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Arnaldo Rossi, president of the INSS [National Institute of Social Security], will no longer resign. The decision was made this morning after a meeting with Labor Minister Rogerio Magri. According to the INSS press office, the minister did not accept Rossi's resignation.

Government Relinquishes Right To Restrict Imports

PY1507153291 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jul 91 p 9

[Text] Geneva—Brazil yesterday told its trade partners that it has decided to relinquish its right to restrict

imports in case of difficulties in its balance of payments. This option is provided for in a GATT article. Rubens Ricupero, the Brazilian representative to the GATT told a meeting of the GATT Council of Directors in Geneva that this decision is one of a series of trade deregulation measures that President Fernando Collor started to implement last year.

Ricupero said that the Brazilian Government also intends to remove the current restrictions on imports in the informatics sector by October 1992. A special GATT article authorizes developing countries with deficits in their balance of payments to impose restrictions on imports, restrictions that, under other conditions, would not be allowed under the regulations of the trade agreement that was signed by 103 nations. Korea has also recently relinquished this GATT article.

Rufus Yerxa, the U.S. trade representative to the GATT, praised the Brazilian decision and the "dramatic steps" taken by our country to reform its economy. Yerxa remembered that the United States has always criticized "the protectionist trade restrictions maintained by Brazil, primarily under the excuse of the balance of payments mechanism." The U.S. trade representative added that Brazil and other developing countries are suffering from the lack of progress in international trade negotiations, primarily as a result of subsidies on agricultural products.

"The relinquishing of this right by a country like Brazil, which for many years was in great need of this alternative, is very important," a GATT spokesman said. GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel also praised the decision announced by the Brazilian representative. Dunkel said: "It is a sign that the government of President Collor is determined to continue to open the economy to international competition."

Bolivia Makes Payment on $350 Million Debt

PY1507035691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Yesterday Bolivia paid Brazil $78 million on a $350 million debt contracted in 1975 through loans from Brazil's Central Bank and the financing of imports by the Bank of Brazil.

Bolivia's payments to Brazil are made every six months and the government expects to receive another payment at the end of the year. Bolivia's total debt amounts to $3 billion.

Brazil has about $10 billion to collect from 50 different countries in East Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

U.S. Company To Launch Brazilian Satellite

PY1507112291 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Jul 91 Third Section, p 3

[Reported by Roberto Lopes]

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello has chosen the U.S. Orbital Science Corporation (OSC) to launch the first Brazilian satellite, which will be built by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE).

The decision was made on 5 July in Brasilia during a meeting with Jose Goldemberg, Science and Technology secretary. The secretary showed the president a copy of a letter through which the OSC moved the deadline of its offer from 30 June to 15 July. The president accepted the proposal.

During the afternoon of 9 July, INPE Director General Marcio Barbosa told an OSC representative in Brazil that the official announcement of the decision would be made on 15 July. Barbosa said that the president thought that the deadline set by the U.S. company had already expired. He said that Collor was surprised by the letter.

The OSC wants $10 million for launching the satellite aboard a Pegasus rocket. The OSC competed with Alport, a consortium formed by the Soviet agency Glavcosmos [as published], by the U.S. Space Commerce company, and by Sao Paulo's Elebra company.

Alport wanted $35 million to launch the satellite aboard a Cosmos rocket from the Alcantara space base in Maranhao. Alport also proposed fitting out the base for the launch and transferring to Brazil some space launching technology.

On 8 July, Goldemberg analyzed the details of the contract in Sao Jose dos Campos (Sao Paulo) with Sergio Ferola, the director of the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA); Ajax Mello, deputy chief of the department of research and development of the Aeronautics Ministry, and representative of the ministry at the Brazilian Commission for Space Activities (Cobae); Marcio Barbosa; and with other officials.

The competition has divided the Brazilian Air Force. Ferola and Cobae Vice President Jose Marconi wanted to accept the Soviet offer because they believe the United States does not want Brazil to progress in the field of rockets or space launchings.

The Aeronautics Minister, Socrates Monteiro, has always favored the United States offer. He visited the USSR to become familiar with Soviet space technology, but he was not happy with what he saw. In May, speaking before the Senate National Defense Committee, he hinted that the promised Soviet technology transfer may never take place because the Soviet Government was preparing to join the System of Control of Missile Technology. This is an agreement between major western powers, led by the United States, that seeks to limit access by Third World countries to missile technology.

Computer Sector Joint Ventures Formed, Approved

PY1607005691 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Jul 91 Section Three p 3

[Summary] Brasilia—The National Council for Informatics and Automation on 10 July approved creation of

the first two joint ventures in the informatics sector. They are MCA Personal Systems Corporation, which was formed by IBM and Sid, and a consortium formed by Elebra and Digital Equipment Corporation. MCA was authorized to import 10,060 unassembled units and 1,006 assembled units. The other consortium was authorized to import 7,473 unassembled units and 747 assembled units.

Petrobras Plans To Increase Oil Production

PY1507035091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Summary] Brazil plans to increase its oil production to 1 million barrels per day by 1994. Currently, Brazil produces 700,000 barrels per day; that is, 60 percent of the oil refined in the country. This information was disclosed by Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Coporation] Chairman Alfeu Valenca.

To Export Oil Surplus

PY1507034291 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Jul 91 p 21

[Text] Petrobras will export nearly 100,000 barrels of oil per day in the second half of 1991. This was announced yesterday by Petrobras Commercial Director Mauricio Alvarenga, who said that it will be the first time the company will export such a high volume of crude oil. Thus far, Petrobras has only exported surplus oil by-products, mainly gasoline. Surplus crude oil will now be exported, Alvarenga reported.

In order to meet domestic fuel demands, Petrobras carries out an operation in its refineries known as blend [preceding word in English]—the mixture of several kinds of oils. Since domestic crude oil production, especially that of heavy oils, has recently increased, Petrobras is beginning to have a surplus; however, Petrobras needs lighter oils to meet an increasing domestic demand for fuels such as gasoline and diesel oil.

Alvarenga stated that in order to meet the increase in fuel demand expected in the second half of 1991, Petrobras will increase its oil imports to almost 580,000 barrels per day; this means 100,000 more barrels than were imported in the first half of the year. Petrobras expects to refine 1.25 million barrels per day in the second half of 1991.

Oil exports do not, however, mean that Brazil has become self-sufficient. The oil produced in Brazil, especially oil from the Campos Basin, is heavy. Alvarenga said that Petrobras intends to sell oil on the foreign market to whomever is interested. Despite not knowing the average price of heavy oils in foreign markets, Alvarenga said it is lower than that of light oils, which are worth about $18 per barrel.

Colombia

CNGSB To Reconsider, Redirect Attacks

PA1507142391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2115 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] announced today it will reconsider its wave of attacks against the power infrastructure in Colombia, so as not to directly affect the civilian population.

After two weeks of blowing up utility poles—which led to the suspension of service in nearly half of the national territory—the CNGSB stated that mistakes have been made and that the high command ordered the guerrilla fronts to redirect their military operations.

Rogelio Santacruz, commander of the northwestern front of the National Liberation Army (ELN), said their intention is not to hurt vast segments of the population, who have suffered from a lack of power service in the last few days. Dynamite attacks on the power infrastructure have adversely affected at least 10 Colombian departments over the past week, actions which the population has unanimously condemned.

"We are aware that mistakes have been made and we have to correct them," Santacruz said in a message released in the capital. He said, however, that this does not mean the guerrillas will suspend their "economic sabotage" campaign against targets that adversely affect national production.

Santacruz added, "We will simply reconsider our objectives and make a better selection of our attacks so that the civilian population is not hurt.

Rebel To Face Trial for Plot Against Gaviria

PA1407213591 Paris AFP in Spanish 1947 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Bogota, 14 Jul (AFP)—Jorge Roa Gutierrez, leader of a guerrilla column that operates in northwestern Colombia, has been held responsible for the foiled terrorist attack against President Cesar Gaviria last week in Bucaramanga, located 500 km from Bogota. He will be tried in a matter of hours.

Roa Gutierrez, leader of a column of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which merged with the Guevarist Army of National Liberation (ELN) in 1990, was arrested in northwest Santander Province and arraigned by an "unidentified" judge. The authorities charge him with planning the foiled 11 July attack on President Cesar Gaviria.

The authorities said today that the subversive is responsible for the placement of eight dynamite sticks at the Piedecuesta heliport, located on the outskirts of Bucaramanga, where Gaviria was scheduled to arrive on 11 July to inaugurate several community projects.

The explosive device was discovered 24 hours before the arrival of the president, who was the target of the foiled attack.

Roe Gutierrez is currently being detained at a Bucaramanga jail.

The army and police discovered that the FARC terrorist had plans to perpetrate attacks on government buildings in Bucaramanga. He was carrying documents that gave details of the places where the FARC members were scheduled to perpetrate their attacks.

Millions Lost in Rebel Attack, Oil Spill

PA1207175391 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 8 Jul 91 p 7

[Text] Millions in economic losses, ecological damages of unpredictable consequences, and the indefinite suspension of pumping activities and oil supplies are the results of the latest terrorist attack perpetrated by guerrilla groups on the trans-Andean oil pipeline which carries oil from Orito municipality, Putumayo, to the port of Tumaco.

The attack, which the authorities termed as the worst in recent months, occurred on Saturday 6 July in La Hormiga jurisdiction, when approximately 20 men who said that they were members of the FARC's [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] Southern Front planted dynamite bombs that were later detonated.

As a result of the action, the oil well was destroyed and the storage tanks, motors, hydraulic pumps, pipelines—even offices located in the vicinity—were blown up.

The authorities' initial estimates indicate more than 10,000 barrels of oil have been spilled, which represents a grave risk to the area's ecology—not to mention the fact that 350 workers' activities will be indefinitely paralyzed.

Army and Police personnel began to search for the subversives, who managed to escape to the Putumayo jungle region, and the operation has yet to yield positive results.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the Army managed to deactivate 10 explosive devices that had been prepared in Antioquia Department to destroy an equal number of electric towers.

Furthermore, an additional 150 kg of dynamite were deactivated in Vijagual, Santander Department. The explosives had been camouflaged in milk cans, and they were ready to be used whenever a military convoy passed by.

Chilean President Aylwin Visits Colombia

PA1507164691 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] During heavy rain and low temperatures, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin arrived in Bogota. Despite the bad weather, the official welcoming ceremony was held with the accustomed presidential honors and the inevitable speeches.

Colombian President Cesar Gavira expressed his satisfaction with the visit of the Chilean head of state, and made vows that the relationship between the Colombian and Chilean people will grow closer with every passing day.

In appreciation, President Aylwin remembered all the Chilean presidents who had visited Colombia. This is his second visit since his first visit to Colombia when he was a senator.

President Aylwin will be in Bogota until 16 July, when he is scheduled to travel to El Salvador. He will later travel to Guadalajara, Mexico to attend the Latin American presidential summit.

Legal Experts Interviewed on Constitution

PA1507150991 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Jul 91 p 3A

[Interview with Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta, Supreme Court Chief Justice Pablo Julio Caceres Corrlaes, State Council President Consuelo Sarria Olcos, and Disciplinary Court President Carlos Octavio Rodriguez by EL TIEMPO legal correspondents; place and date not given]

[Text] [EL TIEMPO] Do you think that the new constitional system of checks and balances is good?

[Caceres] The Constitutional Court emerged for many as a reaction against old Supreme Court rulings, although this court cleared the way for the Constitutent Assembly in its ruling on Article 1926. This reaction brings us to a solution that is alien to us: the Constitutional Court. Many feel that this corporation of experts should be independent and issue strictly legal opinions. That, however, does not fall in line with the model of a constitutional court that exists all over the world; the prevailing model is one of a political court that interprets the constitution based on partisan programs that won the past elections. The court that was created here will be different from the one that was in operation from the start. This one will take on a political characteristic, in that, it will be elected by the Senate. The trend is to politicize a constitutional decision.

[Arrieta] The constitutional system of checks and balances does not vary substantially from the old system. Only the old constitutional division of the Supreme Court was replaced by a Constitutional Court. I do not agree totally with what has been done. The Court, with regard to checks and balances, has done a very good job in the past. In fact, it is so good that our model of constitutional system of checks and balances has been copied by many other countries. There is talk about the technical constitutional system checks and balances. This seems extremely dangerous to me; I panic just to

think of the constitutional checks and balances system in the hands of technicians. The checks and balances system is not a comparison of standards from a strictly technical or formal point of view and the model in force was good until recently, because it was enriched insofar as those who participated were specialists in the diverse branches of law.

[Rodriguez] All constitutional rulings are politicized to a great extent. This can be seen in the formation of all the constitutional courts in Europe. It was necessary to separate the duties of the Constitutional Court from the courts of appeal (dedicated to rulings on criminal, civil, and labor matters) and place these duties under a specialized institution. The judges must have a very clear concept of the law as well as of politics and know the reasons that have motivated the system of checks and balances.

[Caceres] Of course, law is not a simple formality. Law is knowledge; it is much more than just a procedure. Besides being knowledge, it must be reflected in the social reality. It goes without saying that the judge who is going to apply the law must understand social reality. He must be sensitive and take into account that reality. When I talk about the political clout that surrounds Constitutional Court, I am referring to its origin, because it is the Senate that appoints the judges. The Senate is made up of political parties and the idea is that the court somehow should reflect the Senate's political trends. One cannot confuse plain politics with state theory.

[EL TIEMPO] Is the justice system more independent and autonomous as a result of the reform?

[Sarria] The fact that the judicial branch's budget was raised to constitutional levels is very meaningful. Until recently, all sorts of juggling had to be undertaken to obtain funds for the budget and to enable this branch to sign a contract.

[Arrieta] Yes, if we are talking about the budget's autonomy, the justice system is more independent and autonomous as a result of the reforms. This issue has been one of the judicial branch's goal for a long time and finally we reached it. However, I do not consider it to be something that will have far-reaching effects. In terms of autonomy and independence in general, great progress has not been made, although there has not been a drawback either. The only factor that I do not like is the elimination of the co-option (system whereby the courts elect their own members). Although this was not an ideal system as far as efficiency goes, at least it guaranteed the opening of a democratic process—much greater than what there will now be—in the selection of the candidates. The Superior Council of the Judicature undoubtedly is an advance in other fields, but in terms of choosing [a magistrate], the problem is not who chooses a magistrate but rather what criteria is used in the selection.

[Caceres] Limited co-option is convenient. This was the Court's proposal and it tried to get superior institutions to receive lists of candidates drawn up from members outside of the corresponding institutions. The proposal underlines the need for autonomy in the judicial branch. The creation of a Superior Council with a budget and financial capacity to make decisions on disbursement is praiseworthy. The problem is when the judicial branch draws up a budget, it is accepted, but when the time comes to make a decision on the disbursement, this is subordinated to available funds, to current economic policies, or even to the monetary policy.

[EL TIEMPO] Will the new constitutional framework of justice defeat impunity?

[Sarria] Regarding the matter of controversial administrative jurisdiction, there has been no impunity. In other countries, the accusatory system and the attorney generalship could have been legally created without raising them to the constitutional level. A properly fortified criminology institute could have been created that would be ascribed to the branch to carry out those functions within the accusatory system.

[Arrieta] There is a more modern constitutional framework that will enable us to better deal with the impunity issue. By strengthening the prosecutor general's office and, especially, creating the attorney generalship, we will be able to make progress in this direction inasmuch as the attorney generalship will also improve the investigative forces' coordination and simultaneously place one institution in charge of investigations. There are enormous limitations, because we still have relatively independent and apparently uncoordinated bodies.

[Caceres] The impunity issue—although a great deal of time is devoted to its penal aspects—is found in every legal manifestation. The real problem is not one of clearing shelves, as proposed by an unsuccessful transitory law. While the constitution provides the framework, the judge applies the law using the tools that the legislators provides him. It may be decided with regard to penal matters that a certain group of crimes must be punished lightly, benignly, as venial sins, and that others must be punished with greater intensity. However, this will not be determined by the judge but by the law.

[Rodriguez] The Constituent Assembly discussed the issue of justice almost in its entirety, focusing on its penal features: An attorney generalship had to be created because the crime rate is disturbing; however,there was not any discussion of contentious administrative justice or labor justice.

[EL TIEMPO] What are the legal reforms' foremost virtues and pitfalls?

[Arrieta] The judicial sector will have many heads; it will be somewhat bureaucratic. The creation of the attorney generalship is a very positive aspect. Legally speaking, it is our most important achievement. The establishment of a public defender is a very interesting step forward, particularly with regard to tutelage or protection, and with regard to everything involving public defense.

[Sarria] The permanence of the contentious administrative jurisdiction's integrity is positive. I find the reform frustrating, because it fails to set aside a minimum percentage of the national expense budget for the jurisdictional branch.

[Rodriguez] The reform reaches out to all of the powers; it makes fundamental changes in all of the branches of public order. It outlines congress' true role, which is solely to legislate. We will now have legislators who are specialists on the subject. The Higher Council of the Judicature is our greatest achievement in the area of judicial independence.

[Caceres] Separate bodies have been created. We have all been separated. There is no justification for disruptions within a branch that is seeking unification, due to a lack of communication between the court and council, as if we were independent powers.

Paraguay

Colorado Party Faction Warns of New Dictatorship

PY1507184891 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Jul 91 p 8

[Text] The new Revolutionary Democratic Action (Arde), a faction of the Colorado Party, has released a communique in which it clarifies its position on the statement about "granitic unity" and on the Chamber of Deputies' questioning of the political activities of the interior minister.

Arde expresses concern that the possibilities for political evolution in our country are diminishing. The communique says: "The Paraguayan people will struggle against any effort to reimpose a military dictatorship with a democratic facade. Any political activity by military men on active duty violates the law. The people will not remain tolerant forever and if it becomes clear that the military institutions are hiding a desire for political power the people will then assume their basic responsibility of ensuring that the Constitution is obeyed."

The communique states that the people will not listen to those who preach against real elections and who want the return of "orders from above." The communique adds: "The people will not tolerate those who adulate and who stimulate dictatorial projects."

Regarding the desire of President Andres Rodriguez to reestablish the party's granitic unity, the communique said that Arde advocates unity in freedom and dissent, saying that unity should only be limited by democratic order. The communique adds: "Not a granitic unity as an instrument of the Colorado Party at the service of a new boss."

The communique also denied that the party leaders are the only ones responsible for the disagreements and the helplessness of the Colorado Party Executive Board.

The communique says: "We should not underestimate the forces advocating a new dictatorship. The time has come to evaluate with realism the dangers of totalitarianism. The people are disappointed with the administration of the current military regime."

Arde says that the struggle between the government and the people is for power, adding: "Both sides use the legitimate discontent of the people as a weapon. If active-service military men prolong their stay in the civilian government, we run the risk that this discontent will be repressed again and that the revolution will become a reign of terror."

The communique concludes by requesting that the executive branch strengthen the democratic process, showing respect for political parties and the government branches.

The communique was signed by Carlos Plate, Juan Carlos Barreiro, Casiano Ayala, Antonio Garcia, and Juan Lopez.

Uruguay

Legislature Approves Mercosur Trade Treaty

PY1307130091 Madrid EFE in English 0132 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Montevideo, July 13 (EFE)—Uruguay on Friday [12 July] became the second of the four members of the proposed Common Market of the South (Mercosur) to approve the trade treaty in parliament. Paraguay had already pushed through legislation following the March 26 signing of the Treaty of Asuncion, which will also bring together Brazil and Argentina.

Three members of the left-wing opposition coalition, Wide Front, were the only members of the 93 strong Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies to vote against the common market. The extreme left has attacked MERCOSUR as "a loss of national identity," which will see the tiny country absorbed by its mighty northern neighbor Brazil.

The Treaty of Asuncion is aimed at removing customs duties between the four and introducing the free circulation of goods and services by the beginning of 1995.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Iceland

PY1107123491 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 22 Jun 91 p 9

[Summary] It has been officially reported that on 18 June Uruguay and Iceland established diplomatic relations during a ceremony held at the United Nations in New York. The two countries have appointed concurrent ambassadors.

Fiscal Surplus Reported in First Half of 1991

PY1607004891 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 4 Jul 91 p 20

[Summary] Official sources have reported a fiscal surplus of 95 billion new pesos in the first half of 1991. This is the second consecutive sixth month period in which a fiscal surplus has been reported.

Venezuela

President Replaces Justice, Other Ministers

PA1307225591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2138 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Caracas, 13 Jul (EFE)—The Venezuelan Government today announced new appointments at the Ministries of Justice, Labor, Tourism (Corpoturismo), and the Central Office of Information (OCI).

Beatricia Rangel Mantilla, minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency, announced that the new justice minister will be Alfredo Ducharme, replacing Jesus Moreno Guacaran.

Rangel added that the Labor Ministry will now be headed by Jesus Ruben Rodriguez, replacing German Lairet, who presented his resignation to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

OCI Minister Luis Vezga Godoy will be replaced by Congressman Andres Eloy Blanco Iturbe of the ruling Democratic Action Party.

The new president of Corpoturismo will be Victor Gamboa; he will replace Vladimir Gessem, who has been appointed Venezuelan ambassador to Canada.

Rangel said that the new ministers will take the oath on 15 July in the presence of the Venezuelan president.

The Presidency minister announced that these are the only changes that President Perez will be making in his executive cabinet at this time.

Perez Urges Castro To Join L. A. Integration

PA1407125191 Paris AFP in Spanish 1603 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Mexico 12 Jul (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has stated that Cuban President Fidel Castro, in the face of the new reality, has the "great responsibility" to take into account that Cuba "is not an island from the cultural and political point of view," but is an integral part of the Latin American region.

According to statements by President Perez published in the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR, "history places him (Castro) at a point in time where he must gather as much responsibility, capacity, and perspective for action as he can to take his country into another era. He must keep in mind that yesterday he was part of a political project, but today the only project is Latin America."

With respect to relations between Washington and Havana, Perez stated: "Unfortunately, we have observed a position, from the United States as well as from Cuba, which would indicate that nothing has changed in the world, as if East-West tension were still at its peak."

Perez pointed out that "I believe there is another important responsibility. The United States must bear in mind this new reality: It cannot be said today that there is a strategic reason for a confrontation with Cuba. At the same time, Cuba must also acknowledge that it is not possible to completely ignore the presence and meaning of the United States."

With respect to the situation in Panama, the Venezuelan president said that "it is very weak, very difficult. But I also want to say that with respect to what happened in Panama (the 20 December U.S. intervention), we Latin Americans are to be blamed."

President Perez concluded by saying that "Latin American nonintervention became an intervention in the case of Panama. This has influenced many matters and has weakened a country that was already weak."

Talks Held With Czechoslovak Foreign Minister

LD1307054991 Prague CTK in English 1706 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Caracas July 12 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier met here yesterday with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Armando Duran.

They noted that Czechoslovakia and Venezuela could cooperate in combatting drug-trafficking and money laundering.

Economic cooperation was a major issue of the talks. Czechoslovak firms could participate in coal mining and in the construction of a steel mill in Venezuela. Several Czechoslovak companies have been invited to bid for supplies of machinery for the Venezuelan oil industry.

Dienstbier offered Venezuelan companies capital interest in the privatisation process in Czechoslovakia, including setting up joint ventures.

Both sides agreed to conclude an air transport agreement and an agreement on cultural cooperation.

Dienstbier and Duran discussed the situation in Europe and Latin America and expressed anxiety about developments in Yugoslavia.

Businessmen Support Economic Integration

PA1407233491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1832 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Porlamar, Venezuela, 14 Jul (AFP)—Venezuelan businessmen have voiced full support for their country's economic integration with other Latin American nations, although they criticized the Andean Pact and the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, it was reported today.

During the annual meeting of their organization, Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], which is being held on Margarita Island, the businessmen emphasized that to complement Latin American industry, "the policies of the subregion should be coordinated without restricting private and free enterprise."

When referring to the creation of a free trade zone within the Andean Pact (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela), the businessmen emphasized that "it should be done without any type of restrictions."

Fedecamaras pointed out that "we are concerned over the fact Venezuela has eliminated nearly all of the nontariff restrictions, while some countries in the subregion still have mechanisms that hinder imports from the same area."

About a common external tariff for the Andean countries, they insisted that "a tariff protection should be approved for products manufactured in factories that are in the process of reconversion."

To this effect, they recommend that the Venezuelan Government "jointly evaluate with the business sector the negotiated position it should assume with the rest of the Latin American countries for the various agreements."

Fedecamaras voiced its concern over the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative that calls for creating a hemispheric area of free trade, stimulating investments, and condoning the Latin American official debt with the U.S. Government, inasmuch as "the United States does not seem willing to advance in that area."

The businessmen objected to "the conditions established (by the Initiative), including that of tying itself to the priniciples and policies of the international economic organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF." They also criticized the "protectionist direction" of the U.S. trade law and the "continuous restrictions, antidumping charges, sanitation requirements, and so many others being frequently applied against Latin American exports."

When referring to Venezuela's trade relations with Central America, the businessmen said that these "are being agreed upon based only on the political aspects, without considering other aspects or taking precautions to prevent benefits for third countries."

To this effect, Fedecamaras suggested a search for means of reciprocity, including facilities for Venezuelan investments in Central America and the establishment of warehouses that will accelerate exports to other regions.

Suriname

Lachmon Reelected National Assembly Chairman

PY1107155691 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon yesterday told newly appointed members that unpopular measures will be needed in the future to feed the country. He pointed also to new Assembly members that their guidelines should seek to promote the interest of the people, and called on the coalition as well as opposition members to follow the activities of the government with a critical eye.

Lachmon said it is unique in the history of the parliament that 35 of the 51 Assembly members are new people to the House.

The chairman further said that he hopes the relations with Holland will be mended the coming period.

Lachmon was yesterday, by acclamation, chosen as chairman of the National Assembly, a post which he has held for the past 3 and ½ years.

(Hotma Rogers) and (Kornilus Artyo Soemita) were chosen as deputy chairman and secretary of the National Assembly, respectively.

[Words indistinct] the new Assembly started its term in office of 5 years.

One of the first activities of the new body is the election of the new president and vice president, and this is expected to happen within a week.

Party Support for Constitutional Amendment

PY1307172491 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] DA 91 [Democratic Alternative 91] is willing to support the New Front regarding proposals for the changing of the Constitution. This was said by (Winston Yaserin), chairman of DA 91, yesterday to the Suriname News Agency SNA.

(Yaserin) further said that the Democratic Alternative 91, as an opposition party, will vote for eventual proposals of the front for the changing of the Constitution if the party agrees to them.

DA 91 also supports the changing of Article 53 of the Constitution, in which it is stated that relatives in the second degree can't be members of the National Assembly at the same time.

On the basis of this article, the two brothers (Arpe) and (Winston Yaserin) were not admitted to the National Assembly. According to the Constitution, the determining of which brother should sit in the National Assembly should be done by drawing of lots. It is not yet known when the National Assembly will decide in this case.

The organ yesterday met to admit the member (Tony Matoya), of the New Front, who earlier couldn't be present in Paramaribo because of transportation problems. A decision is yet to be taken on the admittance of the member (Bel Freor) since it was not clear if he really lives in the district in which he was elected. According to the Constitution, a member of the National Assembly should be living, for at least two years, in the area where he seeks election.

Government To Fight Drug Trafficking

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[Text] The drug question in Suriname has taken destructive and dangerous proportions, and the government thinks it is necessary to act quickly. This was stated by Vice President Jules Wijdenbosch this morning during a press conference at his cabinet.

Wijdenbosch said his government has noticed that drug trafficking by Suriname exceeds all borders, and that participants in this circuit come from all levels and groups of the population.

The government has decided to seek international assistance, because of the magnitude of the problem and will, in this framework receive representatives from the diplomatic corps today, said Vice President Jules Wijdenbosch.

Another measure is the installation of a special organ which should fight the drug trade. This organ will be led by the president, said Wijdenbosch, but because of security reasons couldn't give details of the composition of the organ.

The vice president also didn't want to elaborate about the direct reason for the emergency meeting of the council of ministers last night, at which the drug problem was discussed.

Wijdenbosch however said that Suriname will seek foreign assistance in the area of finances, manpower and equipment for the fight against the drug trade.

The treatment shouldn't be delayed and the (?interim) cabinet is convinced that the coming government will continue to fight, said the vice resident at the press conference.

Also present were the ministers of defense, justice and police, and foreign affairs.